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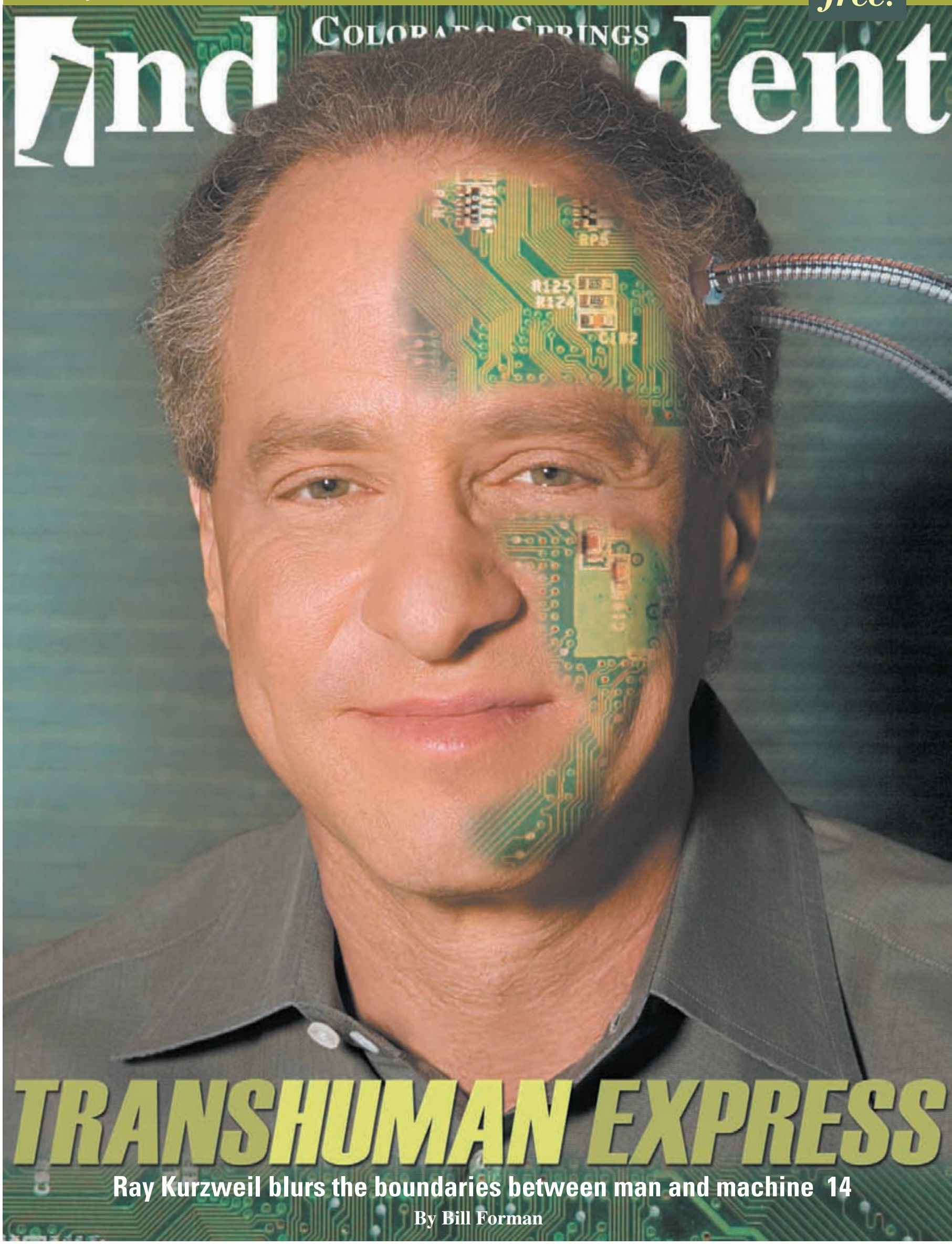


TRANSHUMAN EXPRESS

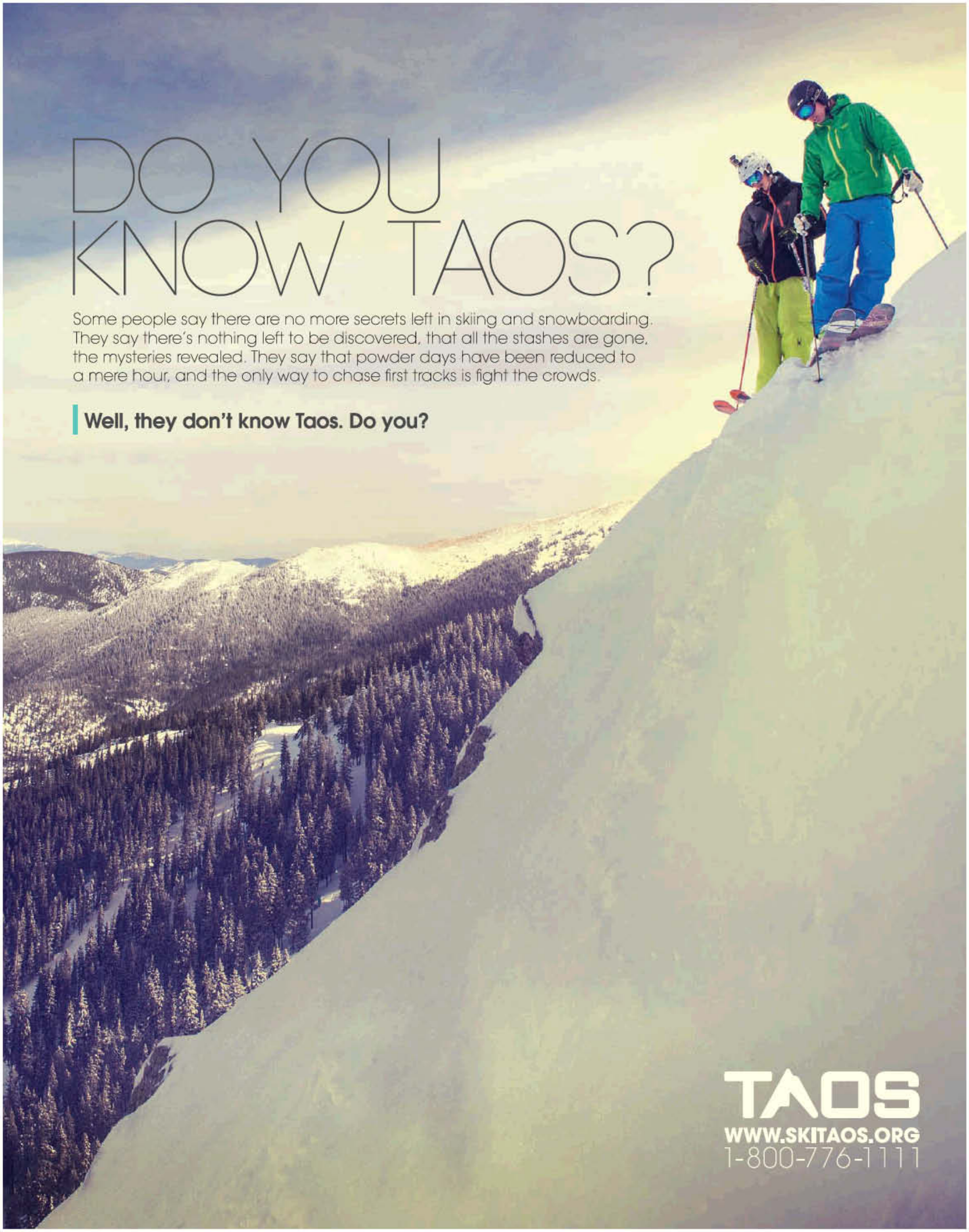
Ray Kurzweil blurs the boundaries between man and machine 14

By Bill Forman

DO YOU KNOW TAOS?

Some people say there are no more secrets left in skiing and snowboarding. They say there's nothing left to be discovered, that all the stashes are gone, the mysteries revealed. They say that powder days have been reduced to a mere hour, and the only way to chase first tracks is fight the crowds.

Well, they don't know Taos. Do you?



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No joke: Pam helps elevate the News section.

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To pack or not to pack? If El Paso County Sheriff Terry Maketa has his way, that may soon be a relevant question for local teachers.

Last month's slaughter of 26 people, including 20 children, at a Connecticut elementary school has touched off national debate about how to better protect kids from mass murderers.

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28

What a difference a decade makes, particularly if you're a Syrian-American hip-hop artist. Omar Offendum was a college student when he began rapping in the aftermath of the September 11 tragedy — an event that redefined him, in the eyes of many, as "the other."

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Radical inspiration
29

'Better. Worse. Better. Worse ..." That's how Dr. Nancy Saltzman describes the process of emotional healing — and she's a woman who knows all about it. After surviving two bouts of cancer, the Colorado Springs resident found her ability to withstand trauma further tested when her husband and two sons died in 1995.

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On the Cover
Design by art director Kathy Conarro.

UpComing

Understandably, pot talk's been focused on Amendment 64 lately. But the medical marijuana business is still plugging along, doin' its thing.

In next week's issue, you'll find ***ReLeaf***, our guide to all the ins and outs of MMJ in the Pikes Peak region.

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Gina Gabel

Be A Winner!

Fans of the 1992 film *Prelude to a Kiss* with Meg Ryan and Alec Baldwin may not know it was a play first. Bring your tissue, have a Molson and catch it live when the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center presents it Jan. 31 through Feb. 17. Enter at csindy.com to win a pair of tickets exclusively through the IndyBlast!

SliceOfLife

Kin Scott

The area's seen some below-zero lows outside, but inside the greenhouses at Phelan Gardens, Bonnie Parker-Taylor preps blooms for spring.

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If your comments are mailed or e-mailed to us, we'll consider them for publication — unless you request otherwise. Please include your name, city of residence and a daytime phone number for verification.

Revenge porn? Really?

Wow. The *Indy* must really be hard up for stories to give the front page to someone as deluded and narcissistic as Craig Brittain ("The face of revenge," cover story, Jan 9). Revenge porn? Jesus H. Christ. I must be living under a rock.

And I quote, "I thought Brutus was a cool guy. He's like, 'Caesar, you were cool. You were my boy, but you fucked me over. So now I'm going to stab you.'" Stunning coverage, *Indy*.

That he was on NPR, not to mention that KRDO is interested in him, is just so far beyond my comprehension.

"And I'll be like, 'You know, I used to be a famous celebrity. Here I am in your English class, and I used to be somebody famous.'" And that's what it all boils down to for losers such as Craig — getting your 15 minutes of fame. And thanks to the folks at the *Colorado Springs Independent*, among others, he has just that. Any more scumbags you can scrape up for us?

— Christopher Curcio
Colorado Springs

Don't encourage them

Good grief, *Indy*! An article exposing the damage done by revenge porn? Fine. But you heaped tons of attention on a person who traffics in people's misery. And to top it off, you publish his picture on the front page.

It reminds me of the absurdity of newspapers decrying the offense of graffiti, then publishing pictures of the damage. Please don't encourage behavior that harms community.

— Judith Lee
Colorado Springs

Karmic blowback

Oh Chet Hardin, I hope they gave you hazard pay for having to sit through a conversation with that moronic sociopath, Craig Brittain. I thank you for doing the valuable service of posting so many pics of him. Now one of his victims may have the opportunity of exacting their own revenge. We can only hope! What goes around comes around.

— Valerie Croke
Colorado Springs

Déjà vu

The article on Craig Brittain takes on special meaning when viewed in light of recent events. Young male, not confident in relationships (particularly with women), failed attempt at a high-profile career (rapper). Then there is this quote: "I do things that people may see as morally ambiguous, but I have a greater goal in mind."

In a way, I guess, we are lucky. He picked up a mouse for his vile purposes. It could have been an AR-15.

— Niel Powers
Colorado Springs

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'Now is not the time to announce to the [drug] cartels: "El Paso County's all yours."'

— Marijuana advocate Bob Wiley speaking to El Paso County commissioners Tuesday about the risk of banning recreational-marijuana facilities in unincorporated areas of the county. The board passed the resolution 4-1.

LongStoryShort

The day after my Ray Kurzweil interview, I learned that Watson, the IBM computer that won on *Jeopardy*, had suffered a case of information indigestion.

Fortune reported last week that the technological wonder was fed the entirety of the Urban Dictionary, that quirky online compendium of slang definitions that are, more often than not, absurdly tongue-in-cheek.

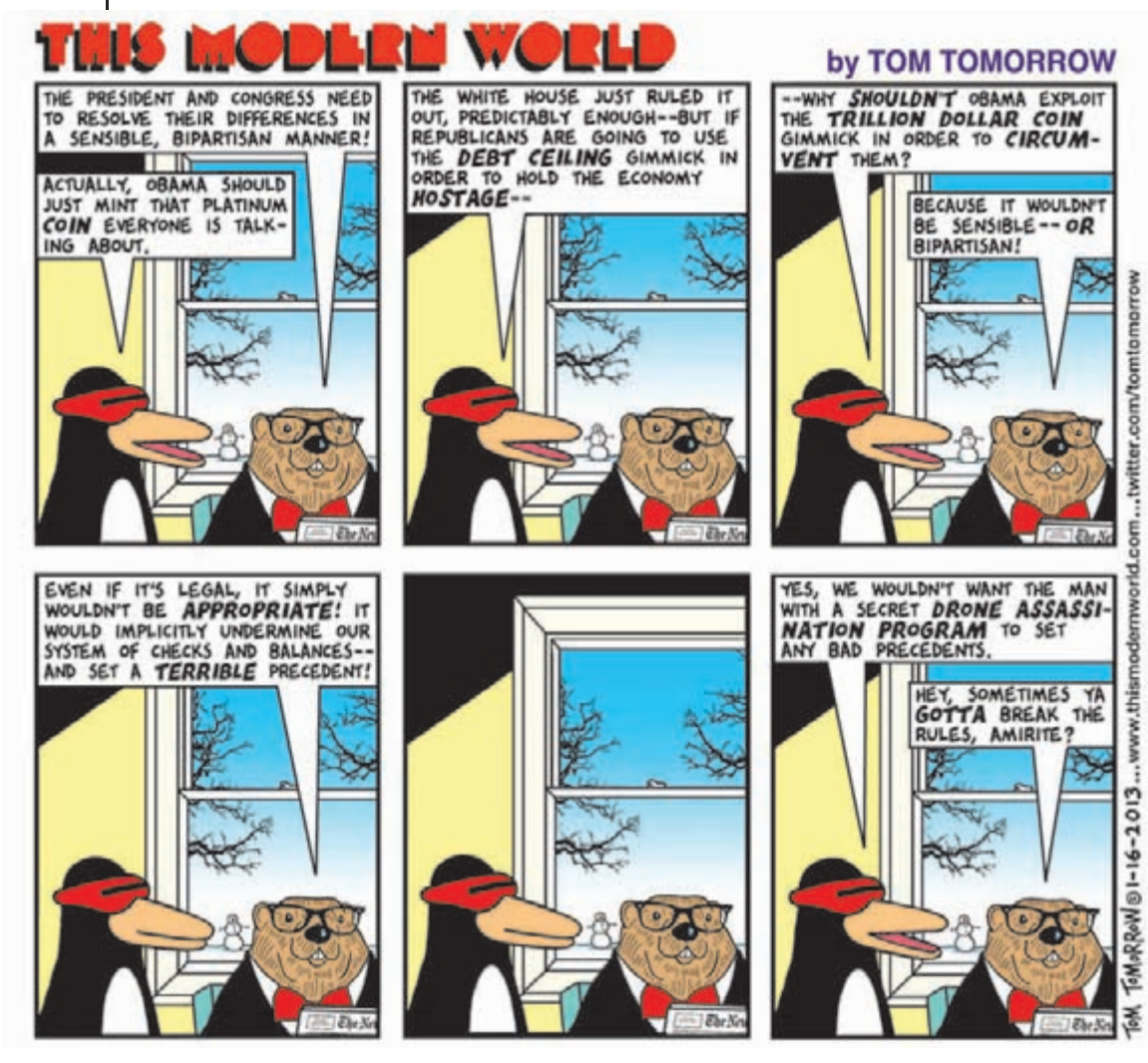
So assuming, for example, that the supercomputer searched its own name, as many of us tend to do, it would have discovered nearly two dozen separate "Watson" entries, ranging from a creepy chinstrap beard to someone who exaggerates his or her own war record — plus the obligatory sexual and scatological definitions.

Absent among those user-submitted entries was any reference to IBM's star computer. So rather than allow Watson to develop an identity crisis and a foul mouth, programmers purged all Urban Dictionary memories from its brain.

Of course, such incidents will no longer be a problem if Ray Kurzweil realizes his prediction that technology will soon replicate human thinking to the point where the two are indistinguishable. America's most famous modern-day inventor and futurist took a big step toward that goal last month, when Google hired him to teach its machines how to decipher the semantic meaning of anything they encounter.

In our cover story interview (which begins on p. 14), the author of the best-selling *The Singularity Is Near* and inventor of groundbreaking synthesizers and reading machines talks about the path to post-humanism and the perils we'll likely encounter along the way.

— Bill Forman


THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW
THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS NEED TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES IN A SENSIBLE, BIPARTISAN MANNER!
ACTUALLY, OBAMA SHOULD JUST MINT THAT PLATINUM COIN EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT.
THE WHITE HOUSE JUST RULED IT OUT, PREDICTABLY ENOUGH--BUT IF REPUBLICANS ARE GOING TO USE THE DEBT CEILING GIMMICK IN ORDER TO HOLD THE ECONOMY HOSTAGE--
--WHY SHOULDN'T OBAMA EXPLOIT THE TRILLION DOLLAR COIN GIMMICK IN ORDER TO CIRCUMVENT THEM?
BECAUSE IT WOULDN'T BE SENSIBLE--OR BIPARTISAN!
EVEN IF IT'S LEGAL, IT SIMPLY WOULDN'T BE APPROPRIATE! IT WOULD IMPLICITLY UNDERMINE OUR SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES--AND SET A TERRIBLE PRECEDENT!
YES, WE WOULDN'T WANT THE MAN WITH A SECRET DRONE ASSASSINATION PROGRAM TO SET ANY BAD PRECEDENTS.
HEY, SOMETIMES YA GOTTA BREAK THE RULES, AMIRITE?
TOM TOMORROW ©1-16-2013 ...www.thismodernworld.com ...twitter.com/tomtomorrow

Gun solution

Politically I'm a radical leftist, but I own a Galil .223 semi-automatic assault rifle with six 35-round magazines. I also have a Beretta 9mm semi-automatic pistol and six 15-round magazines. I have a 20-gauge shotgun, a .38 special snubnose revolver, and a .357.

I keep everything in a thousand-pound gun safe. I've taken a gun safety class and have had half a dozen background checks. I can handle a gun safely, and hope I never so much as point one at another human. The point being that I take my guns seriously.

The Supreme Court has broadly interpreted the Second Amendment as protecting an individual's right to possess firearms disassociated from any militia. This is a fait accompli, but any right must be balanced against its danger to society; society in turn has a right to expect some personal responsibility from the rightholder.

Unfortunately this is lacking in the current gun-control discussions. Closing gun-show loopholes or banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines will only do so much. In my view, there are three more steps to reducing gun violence:

1. The federal government should sponsor a buyback and general amnesty. If you possess a gun, legally or otherwise, you can sell it to the government for fair market value, no questions asked, no identification required. The one-time cost of such a program could be in the tens of billions, but some studies estimate the economic losses due to gun injuries and deaths

Get Involved has moved to Volunteer Opportunities (p. 32) for the week.

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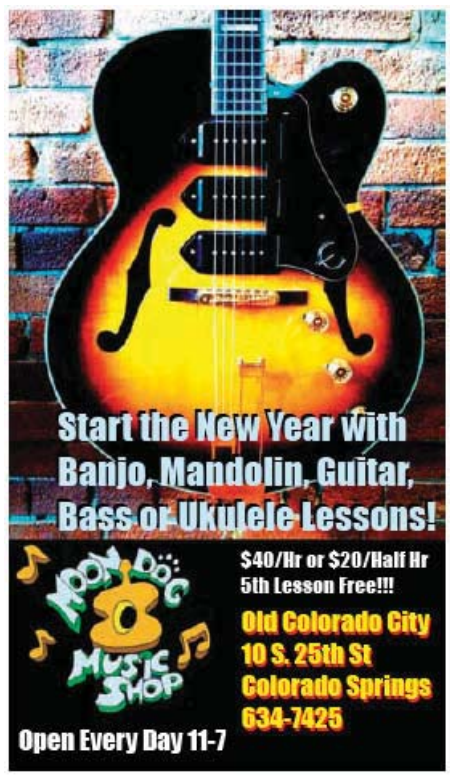
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Letters

in this country are also in the tens of billions — annually.

2. After a year-long buyback program, require that *all* firearms be registered in a national database. If you get caught with an unregistered gun, it's a felony.

3. If a gun registered to you is used in a gun crime, *you* will be subject to criminal charges.

— Ian Flesher
Colorado Springs

Maketa's proposal

El Paso County Sheriff Terry Maketa is generally considered to be one of the few elected moderate Republicans and a good sheriff, so even though I'm a non-gun-carrying Democrat, without a child in the schools, I'm willing to consider his plan for guns in the county's schools (see "No silver bullet," p. 11).

Of course, the flies in the ointment of arming teachers and administrators are not only a teacher or principal losing it, or shooting kids in the crossfire, or a kid getting his hands on such a gun, but someone with a gun overreacting to a self-perceived crisis.

Still, if I was a Colorado state legislator, I would propose a bill allowing selected school personnel to carry a gun in the schools in any county where two-thirds of the public in the county precinct voted in favor of it, allowing individual schools in a precinct to opt out by petition at any time if more than one-third of the parents in a school were against it. In addition, teachers already at these schools should have the freedom to transfer without penalty when possible if they so choose.

— Jonathan H. Reilly
Colorado Springs

Shunning violence

For many decades I have occasionally enjoyed the increasingly violent activity of football. However, I am reducing this violence in my life by refusing to watch any longer. With this conscious act I continue to remind myself of my values for friendship and peaceful solutions to my life. It is almost like uttering a prayer.

I have always enjoyed movies but I am avoiding needlessly violent ones.

I will continue to strive to make my grandchildren aware of destructive video games and other acts of mayhem.

I cannot do much about atrocities in my nation, but I can help myself and influence what happens in my family.

— Dale L. Kemmerer, M.D.
Colorado Springs

Defending to the death

To all the people "sheep," who mistakenly believe that our government and our leaders will never subject us to tyranny, remember Hitler, Stalin and Mao Tse-tung promised their people that they would be treated fairly, protected, fed and ruled fairly. Then they took all weapons — hunting, sport or self-defense — away for the safety of all.

If our beloved USA comes under such tyranny, I will have my weapons for protection of my family and home. The anti-gunners and the rest of the "sheep" who feel guns and gun owners are evil, will walk with bowed heads, tails between legs and walk slowly into the gas chambers and seal their fates. I will defend to the death, with my "assault rifle, Saturday night special, high-capacity magazine and my Second Amendment rights."

If you forget about history, you can forget about the future.

— Dennis Specht, minuteman
Colorado Springs

A real Ranger objects

I am writing to object to one of your writers giving himself the title of "Ranger," Rich Tosches.

I am a former U.S. Army Ranger and veteran of both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. My Ranger brothers and I earned the right to the title Ranger by enduring an extremely difficult selection course that historically has a graduation rate of 25 percent.

As far as I can tell, Mr. Tosches has never been in the U.S. Army, nor was he ever a USDA Forest Ranger or a National Park Service Ranger.

Mr. Tosches using the title Ranger is quite disrespectful to the U.S. Army, the USDA and the NPS. Mr. Tosches should immediately drop the title and find a more appropriate one to use.

— Lyndell Kaiser
Aurora

Out of balance

Last Friday on PBS, Bill Moyers played an interview with Lloyd Blankfein, CEO of Goldman Sachs, where he stated "The American public has to understand you can't work for 25 years and expect to collect Social Security for 30 years. We have to reform Social Security."

Then Moyers pointed out Blankfein received a $54 million bonus, paid *before* the end of 2012 so he could avoid paying the higher taxes imposed for 2013!

Nobody I know worked for 25 years and expected to collect Social Security for 30 years. They worked more like 30 to 40 years. And most of my friends were lucky if they reached salaries totalling $50,000 a year before retirement.

Why do these rich people resist paying their fair share of taxes and now expect Social Security to be cut for the hard-working people lucky enough to make it to retirement?

I am so thankful we are not having an "Arab Spring" in this country, YET, but if these imbalances continue we certainly will!

— Elaine Brush
Colorado Springs

CitySage

By John Hazlehurst

Lamborn lets us down

"Whoever you are, I have always depended on the kindness of strangers." — Tennessee Williams, A Streetcar Named Desire

That line, spoken by **Blanche DuBois** as a kindly doctor leads her offstage to a mental institution, came to mind as I read a pleading missive addressed to Colorado's congressional delegation, and signed by every significant local elected official.

In it, Mayor **Steve Bach** joined all five county commissioners, all nine City Councilors, the Colorado Municipal League, Colorado Counties, Inc., Larimer County commissioners, the city of Greeley, Colorado Springs Utilities and the Colorado Springs Regional Business Alliance in seeking support for a $19.8 million appropriation for emergency watershed protection.

Such pleas are fairly routine in the wake of disasters such as the High Park and Waldo Canyon fires last summer. The need for such funding is particularly acute for Colorado Springs and El Paso County, since any rainstorm could result in significant damage to highways, water pipelines and drainage infrastructure. And should there be a major storm — say, a 25- or 50-year event — the damage would be catastrophic. Imagine U.S. Highway 24 cut in half by a flood at Waldo Canyon and closed for weeks, or pipelines severed and shut down.

So what if you have to hold your nose?

In such cases, state congressional delegations close ranks. This isn't like funding a bridge to nowhere or giving away tax money to underinsured property owners. This is critically important. And that's why there are 435 members of the House of Representatives. Their primary job is to represent the vital interests of their districts — not to preen, posture and sacrifice their constituents on the altar of their own half-baked ideology.

That, sadly enough, is what U.S. Rep. **Doug Lamborn** is doing. He declined to support disaster aid to New Jersey and New York after Superstorm Sandy, and he's not supporting Colorado's appeal for relief funds now.

I've known Lamborn for 20 years or so, and I've always enjoyed his company. He's a smart, earnest man who combines unshakable conviction with a certain affinity for gutter politics. I'm sure that **Jeff Crank** remembers the smears of the 2006 Republican congressional primary, when pro-Lamborn factions accused Crank of being a pro-gay activist, and Lamborn let it slide. Successful politicians often have an instinct for the jugular, but few revel in it as much as Lamborn.

Of those few, several score are among Lamborn's House colleagues. They're end-of-days ideologues, convinced the nation will fall if their visions don't prevail. They know their cause is just, and any means is justified. They may not publicly agree with syndicated columnist **Cal Thomas**, who recently suggested that Republicans dismayed by Obama's re-election should simply refuse to pay taxes, but in their hearts they likely believe he's right.

Even if you believe that the federal deficit is bloated and unsustainable, and that the bill with funding for emergency watershed protection is pork-laden, there's a time when you have to make a deal. This is one.

So what if the bill stinks? So what if you have to hold your nose and abandon deeply held principles? That's your job, Congressman. You're not **Ayn Rand**, **Karl Marx** or **Milton Friedman**.

You're a politician, not a philosopher. Represent your district!

So here we are, the Blanche DuBois of Western cities, abandoned by our friends and forced to rely upon the kindness of strangers. And who might these strangers be? Gov. **John Hickenlooper**, Sen. **Michael Bennet** and Sen. **Mark Udall**. El Paso County voters rejected the candidacies of all three by almost the same margin (60 to 40 percent) that they supported Lamborn. If we're lucky, those kind strangers will do Lamborn's job for him, and provide for the health, safety and future prosperity of our community.

If not, we'll likely continue in our delusional path. We'll assume others will bail us out when our own folly leads us astray, and those who appeal to our fantasies make better representatives than those who live in the reality-based community. We'll hope the weather gods will look upon us benignly, and shield us from fire and flood, not to mention pestilence and famine.

We can always pray, but remember one thing: Even if your lawn is brown, don't pray for rain.

— hazlehurst@csindy.com

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StreetSmarts

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If teachers packed heat, some believe our schools would be safer. But is it fair to add that kind of responsibility to our teachers' workloads, and if not, is there a better solution?

Vickie Steele from ***the west side*** is ***a bookkeeper***

The El Paso County sheriff wants to train teachers to carry concealed weapons. What do you think of the idea? I think teachers should absolutely carry concealed weapons, so they can protect their students and themselves. But it shouldn't be required, it should be a choice.

Do you think having armed security guards or police at every school would be an effective deterrent to school shootings? I think it would be extremely effective, but I don't think the school districts would want to spend the money and I wouldn't want it to take away from teachers' salaries.

Can you think of any one thing that really would make our schools safer? I used to think lockdowns were the answer, but that doesn't work either, especially with high school. Armed guards would at least deter the shooters. But both parents and teachers need to teach kids to be nicer, and teach them to feel empathy for others.

Shannon Walker from ***Fountain*** is ***a federal contractor***

Do you think teachers in our schools should be trained to carry concealed weapons? No, I think it's a bad idea. What if a teacher has a bad day, or feels provoked? It could be dangerous.

How effective would it be to have armed security guards or police at every school? That would be good. They're trained to do it, so I like that idea better than the teachers trying to do it.

Do you believe schools are more dangerous today than when you were a kid? It's kind of the same. It's the same issues, but a different crowd.

As a society, how do you think we've gotten to this point? I think that parents have lost control over their kids. They aren't involved enough with their kids' lives and the kids end up taking control.

Sue Buttenwieser from ***the central area*** is ***a scan assistant***

Do you think teachers should be trained to carry concealed weapons? If they want to I think it would be a good idea, but armed guards at all the doors would be a better option.

Do you think schools are more dangerous today than when you were a kid? Yes. It's just the way society has progressed.

What do you think is to blame? Violence is glamorized, and it's everywhere ... movies, TV, video games. When I was a kid we didn't see as much violence. It's up to the parents to control how much violence their kids are exposed to.

What's one thing that would make our schools safer? Besides armed guards at every door, there needs to be more help for mental illness. People who are mentally ill need extra help and extra care, and they're not getting it.

*— **Kendall Kullman***

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LowDown

By Jim Hightower

New front group sells snake oil

Look out — the "fixers" are coming.

Top corporate chieftains and Wall Street gamblers want to tell Washington how to fix our national debt, so they've created a front group called "Fix the Debt" to push their agenda.

Unfortunately, they're using "fix" in the same way your veterinarian uses it — their core demand is for Washington to spay Social Security, castrate Medicare, and geld Medicaid.

Of course, a group of pampered, narcissistic billionaires would not make a credible sales team for this dirty work, so Fix the Debt has recruited a bipartisan gaggle of former Congress critters to give their self-serving political gambit a softer public image, a sheen of high public purpose.

Unfortunately, they're using 'fix' in the same way your vet uses it.

With a budget of some $40 million, these "elder statesmen" are doing TV interviews, hosting breakfast sessions with members of Congress, making speeches about "mutual sacrifice," and generally going all out to sell the financial elite's snake oil.

But wait — being an "elder" does not automatically mean that you also can refer to yourself as a legitimate statesman.

Let's peek at the résumés of these so-called public-spirited fixers of the debt.

Start with Jim McCrery, a former GOP lawmaker. While urging Congress to cut peoples' programs, he's also a top-paid lobbyist pushing Congress to give more tax subsidies to America's richest people and biggest multinational corporations.

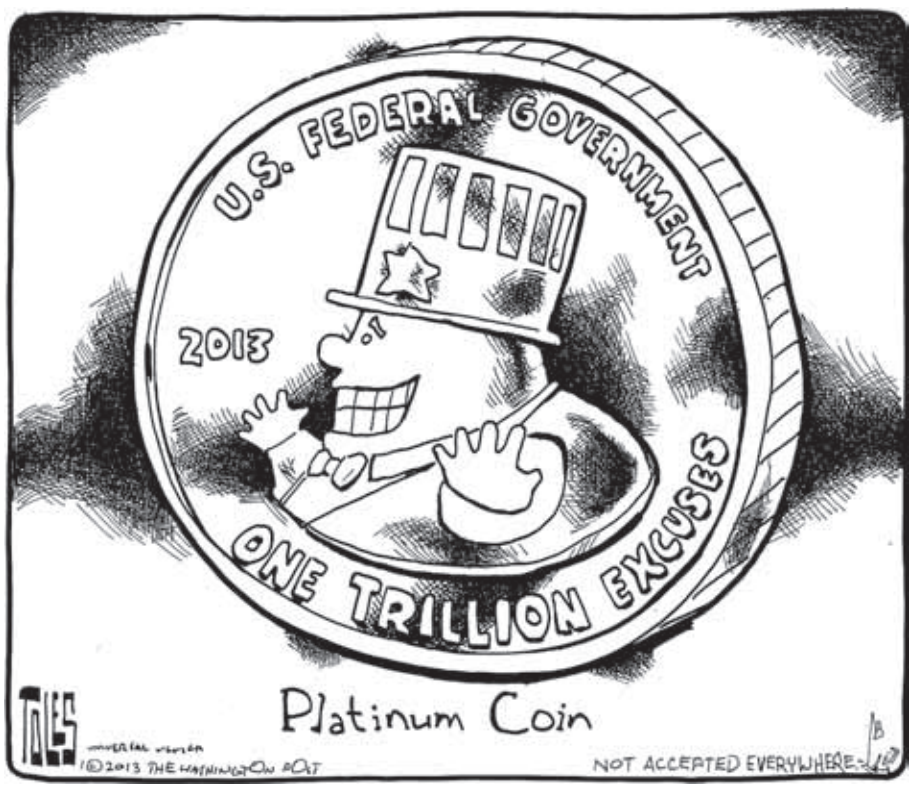
Former Democratic Sen. Sam Nunn is a fixer, too — but he's also paid $300,000 a year to be a board director for General Electric.

Likewise, Democrat Erskine Bowles, a co-founder of the fixers' front group, is on the board of Morgan Stanley, drawing $345,000 a year.

And former Republican Sen. Judd Gregg takes about a million bucks a year as advisor to and board member for such giants as Goldman Sachs and Honeywell.

I wouldn't want this gang of fixers to pet my dog, much less touch my Social Security!

Jim Hightower is the best-selling author of* Swim Against the Current: Even a Dead Fish Can Go With the Flow*, on sale now from Wiley Publishing. For more information, visit jimhightower.com.



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News

Hitting where it hurts

Why overhauling ambulance service could mean higher rates for patients

By Pam Zubeck

When you're having a heart attack, you don't care if the paramedic works for a private company or the local fire department. You just need help.

But when the bill comes, you might care a lot.

The Fire Department and mayor are open to new approaches.

Colorado Springs Mayor Steve Bach is considering changing how patients are transported, and both options he's said to be mulling could increase ambulance charges.

Since the mid-1990s, the Emergency Services Agency, a regional agency with 27 members (including El Paso County and the city) has overseen a regional emergency ambulance contract. It competitively bids the contract at certain intervals; the current one with American Medical Response will expire on Dec. 31, 2013. The city has refused to approve an extension.

County Commissioner Sallie Clark met with Bach on Dec. 19 and reports he's looking at the Colorado Springs Fire Department taking over ambulance transport. City Councilor Merv Bennett says, however, that Bach considers that "only an option"; another would be for the city to charge its service provider, whether AMR or someone else, a franchise fee of up to $2.4 million a year. That's more than 10 times the $200,000 AMR currently pays the ESA for contract oversight.

Details are scarce, largely because the city refuses at this point to release information. In response to the *Independent*'s questions about operational costs, collection rates, start-up expenses, legal liability and staffing, its communications staff issued this response: "The City is in the process of evaluating all of its options and will share our findings with the community once the analysis is complete."

The unknowns

Springs firefighters responded to only 802 fires in 2011, the most recent data available. That's 29 percent fewer than the 1,127 fire calls in 2002. But during that same decade, medical calls jumped by 14 percent, to 34,995.

Firefighters respond to those calls along with AMR and provide initial assessment and treatment, but don't transport except in certain circumstances. They clearly occupy a support role, so much so that if they use any medical supplies on a call, AMR restocks those supplies.

The last time the city studied a Fire Department takeover was 2005. It was a different world then, as evidenced by the study's allusions to a "promising" economy and a "robust" home construction industry. In fact, AMR general manager Ted Sayer says the study is simply "no longer relevant," what with declining government reimbursements and rising expenses, including an 83 percent fuel-price hike since 2005.

But with no new figures coming yet from the city, the '05 numbers provide perhaps the best ballpark figures for what it would take to start this kind of operation. Besides $5 million to buy ambulances and equipment and modify fire stations, the '05 plan called for 70 new hires — most of them civilians, to dodge paying higher firefighter salaries.

The city would break even each year, the study predicted, once it collected more than 42 percent of its billed charges. That's hardly a given; Sayer says AMR's collection rate sits at 33 percent to 40 percent.

Then there's liability. The city could be sued if something went wrong during a transport. And billing can lead to issues: The city of Dallas paid a $2.47 million fine in 2011 because its collection agency overbilled Medicare and Medicaid. Dallas then switched to a different company, whose collections were $8 million below projections.

Manuel Navarro, who was the Colorado Springs fire chief in 2005, in an interview recently labeled the takeover idea "marginal at best."

"If revenue fell short, we would still have the employees," notes Navarro, who worked for AMR as an executive between his tenure in the Springs and his current job as an assistant chief in California's Bay Area.

Covering the shortfall would likely mean raising rates on the public.

Given such problems, it's no wonder that Steve Williamson, who runs the Emergency Medical Services Authority in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Okla., says fire departments are moving away from providing ambulance service.

"People who think this is a revenue source for cities to get into the business are crazy," says Williamson, an American Ambulance Association board member. Referring to the decline in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements, he adds, "There isn't revenue there to make it smart for cities to take it over, because it's just going to get more restrained in the future."

Not that it's impossible to make it work. The Phoenix Fire Department, which handles emergency transport, is doing fine, says spokesman Tim Kovacs. Rates are set by the state — currently it's an $850 base rate for advanced life support, and $750 for basic life support. (AMR's charges are $709 and $529, respectively.)

"Our rates cover all of our costs, and we have one of the highest collection rates in the state, and we don't aggressively beat people's doors down," Kovacs says.

A hidden tax?

Bach's other idea is to have AMR pay the city for firefighters' time spent responding to medical calls, estimated at $2 million to $2.5 million a year, as a franchise fee.

The fee seems to adhere to a 2004 federal Inspector General's advisory opinion that cities won't violate an anti-kickback law if their franchise fees reimburse for a service — in this case, firefighter first responses. Still, EMS attorney and consultant Doug Wolfberg of Harrisburg, Pa., considers franchise fees a "pay to play" arrangement and a hidden tax or cost shift, because they drive up rates for insurers and private-pay patients.

Wolfberg says most franchise fees hover around $500,000; he calls the city's figure "outside the norm." Ambulance companies run on a tight margin, he says; without a significant rate increase, they might not make money.

"The fees ambulance services get from Medicare and insurance companies are simply not sufficient for them to subsidize municipalities that have holes in their budget," Wolfberg says, citing two federal studies that found that government reimbursements provide "barely a break-even proposition" for contractors. Franchise fees, he says, drive up rates.

Most emergency ambulance companies supplement their income by handling non-emergency transports, such as between nursing homes and hospitals. Fire departments don't usually handle those calls.

Bach and Fire Chief Brown are due to report on the matter to Council in late February, Bennett says.

— zubeck@csindy.com

Getting on board

When it comes to the Colorado Springs Fire Department taking over ambulance transport, Mayor Steve Bach apparently already has the support of the International Association of Fire Fighters, which has supported similar moves elsewhere. Local 5 president Jeremy Kroto says via e-mail that a fire-based system could "enhance service delivery," and that other options, including the city contracting directly with a company instead of going through the regional Emergency Services Agency, are on the table.

Kroto also speaks to the fear that the city's current ESA partners have about breaking away from a regional approach to transport. With those agencies representing only 15 percent of the 60,000 emergency ambulance calls a year, they're worried about finding a contractor willing to handle the low volume over a wide expanse without a big rate increase.

Kroto says that "fear mongering" by those who worry a change will leave other agencies high and dry "must cease," adding that it's "truly ridiculous" the city would imperil other agencies.

El Paso County Commissioner Sallie Clark says Bach has mentioned having city firefighters or the city contractor handle calls throughout the county, but that raises the question of who or what agency would monitor contract compliance, such as ensuring that response-time requirements are met.

— Pam Zubeck

No silver bullet

The sheriff's desire to arm teachers appears destined for legislative and logistical troubles

By J. Adrian Stanley

To pack or not to pack? If El Paso County Sheriff Terry Maketa has his way, that may soon be a relevant question for local teachers.

In a Sandy Hook situation, Dr. Kathryn Seifert says, judgment is oft-impaired.

Last month's slaughter of 26 people, including 20 small children, at Connecticut's Sandy Hook Elementary School has touched off national debate about how to better protect kids from mass murderers. Locally, Maketa was lauded last week for his offer to train teachers in gun use and safety, and to waive concealed-carry permit charges, so they can carry arms into schools.

Both national and state laws ban concealed-carry on school grounds, except for law enforcement officials. The state Senate is beginning to look at eliminating the Colorado ban, which would bring the gun-rights vision closer to realization, but Democratic Sen. Pat Steadman says he expects even that effort to fail.

"It will probably die before I ever see it," he says. "Most law enforcement people have concerns about that, from what I've heard, because they're really worried about the training and qualifications of somebody running around a school with a gun."

For those disappointed that Maketa's training isn't likely to be tested in the classroom anytime soon, it's worth noting that various professionals consulted for this story agree there are major concerns with arming teachers.

Would it work?

To Dr. Kathryn Seifert, a Maryland-based psychologist and national expert on youth and family violence, it's pretty basic. "Unless people are highly, highly trained like police officers are, their ability to respond quickly, accurately and with good judgment in a crisis situation I don't think can be that reliable," she tells the *Independent*.

Police officers, she continues, tend to have very different personality types than teachers, and are trained to act without emotion in crises. On the other hand, many people unaccustomed to violent situations will freeze, she says. Others will act with impaired judgment.

"People get upset, they get nervous," she says. "... I think it could be tragic instead of helpful."

When asked about the issues associated with arming teachers, representatives at the Colorado Springs Police Department stressed the risks of such a scenario. Lt. Sal Fiorillo, Tactical Enforcement Unit commander, explains that police receive special training for mass shooting situations.

"[T]hat particular type of training involves people who regularly train in tactical situations and active shooter situations, which most often, non law enforcement or non military people don't have access to," he writes in an e-mail to the *Independent*.

Police spokesperson Barbara Miller adds via e-mail: "We would have to caution citizens that having the proper credentials and training alone would not necessarily prepare them for an active shooter situation. When faced with a tense and stressful situation, there's always the potential the [citizen] shooter would miss the intended target and hurt an innocent person."

Kevin Vick, president of the Colorado Springs Education Association (Colorado Springs School District 11's teachers union), opposes arming teachers. He says a teacher could also absentmindedly set down a gun where a child could reach it, or fail to properly lock it.

"Being a teacher, and talking with a lot of teachers, one of the things that really comes out is there are just too many unanticipated events in a teacher's day to really guarantee the safety of a firearm in that environment," Vick says. "And it would be such a tragedy to have an accidental shooting in a classroom."

Teachers' guns could be put in a special lock box, as Seifert points out is often the case in prisons. (In fact, at the county jail controlled by Maketa, no lethal weapons are allowed inside the secured part of the facility.) But, she says, if the guns are stored far from classrooms, they won't be much use against an intruder with a semiautomatic weapon.

Other solutions

Another approach is to station specially trained, armed police officers — called school resource officers, or SROs — at every school. The National Association of School Resource Officers has lately been championing its cause. And the idea has some traction, though even some supporters concede it'd be expensive.

Vick is a supporter of SROs, as is Seifert, who says, "I would rather see a resource officer in every school than see us arm teachers."

The Colorado Springs Police Department has 14 school resource officers stationed at city high schools. They also regularly visit middle and elementary schools. Police Lt. Patty Feese, supervisor of the Springs' School Resource Program, says SROs are given mandatory, yearly training sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency on dealing with an "active shooter," as well as quarterly training with weapons.

But Feese says the job goes beyond being ready for an attack. By staying in touch with students, these officers can often intervene in problems early and prevent crimes from happening.

Ultimately, Seifert says, that proactive approach is what the country needs. Training teachers, psychologists and social workers to identify potentially violent patients and get them help immediately would do more than anything to solve the problem, she says.

— stanley@csindy.com

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Noted

News briefs from the Front Range

Few claims from Waldo fire

Relatives of the elderly couple killed when the Waldo Canyon Fire burned their Mountain Shadows home didn't file a notice of claim before the Dec. 26 deadline, which means it's unlikely Colorado Springs will be sued in the deaths of William and Barbara Everett.

The couple died in the chaotic time following Mayor Steve Bach's evacuation order for their subdivision June 26, given with fire already racing into the city.

Six people filed claims for spoiled food and other losses due to power and gas being shut off during the fire. The only other claim came from local activist Eric Verlo, who's demanding $200,000 for false imprisonment, wrongful detention and invasion of privacy stemming from Springs police officers' presumably investigating whether he might have been the arsonist.

According to Verlo's lawyer, Lloyd Kordick, Verlo was biking in Red Rock Canyon Open Space on June 23, hours after the fire was reported. Police approached, demanding to know if a car nearby was his. It wasn't. Officers then detained him in the back of a squad car for 2½ hours, took his bicycle, photographed pages from his notebooks, and took a bottle of lemonade to "test it as a possible combustible substance," Verlo's claim says.

Verlo is a frequent critic of city government.

"They just rousted him because apparently they recognized him and knew who he was," says Kordick, who adds he's unsure if Verlo will sue. — ***PZ***

D-11 looks at closures

The Colorado Springs School District 11 Board of Education will consider closing Wasson High School and two elementary schools, as well as other changes, at its Jan. 23 meeting. It will vote Feb. 6.

The recommendations being considered from D-11's recent School Optimization Utilization Plan are:

- closing Wasson;
- closing Bates and Lincoln elementary schools, and moving students to Jackson, Edison, Audubon and Fremont elementary schools;
- opening an "Early College, Career, and Alternative Education Center" at Wasson, and moving other programs to the building;
- and redrawing boundaries for Monroe Elementary.

The district has already hosted public meetings on potential moves. A final meeting will run from 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 16, at Wasson, 2115 Afton Way. — ***JAS***

Stormwater flows on

During a recent meeting with a citizen committee working with the Regional Stormwater Task Force, volunteers say Mayor Steve Bach acted rudely, told them he was in charge of the task force, and dismissed their work, saying he'd hire an engineering firm to re-do it.

Tones were more muted at a Jan. 9 meeting, where the run-in was addressed by Chief of Staff Laura Neumann.

"I will tell you that the perception of anyone who was quoted at this meeting is probably true," she said. "The meeting did not go well."

Neumann said the mayor knows "he had a hand in that," but she chalked the situation up to a misunderstanding, and pledged more cooperation with the task force in the future. The city still plans to hire an engineering firm, with Neumann calling it "a business best practice."

As for who, actually, is in charge of the task force, it's unclear. El Paso County Commissioner Amy Lathen, City Councilor Brandy Williams and others involved say the structure has always been loose. Lathen says a more formal commission could be formed as the task force moves into its next phase — looking for funding. — ***JAS***

Local dancers off to D.C.

Connie Benavidez clearly didn't expect her nonprofit dance troupe to be chosen to perform in Washington, D.C.'s nationally televised Inaugural Parade on Jan. 21.

"I don't know who put our name in or how they got the information, but we were, like, shocked," says Benavidez.

For the last few weeks, the 74-year-old has been preparing lodging, transportation and interviews with Telemundo and CNN for Ballet Folklorico de la Raza, which she founded in 1994. Twelve of her students will go, along with four chaperones. That includes four generations of Benavidez's own family, and dancers as young as 6.

The group, which specializes in Mexican folk dancing, needs to raise $15,000 to offset costs of the trip. Donations can be mailed to Ballet Folklorico de la Raza, C/O Connie Benavidez, 5540 Lantana Circle, Colorado Springs, CO, 80915, or you can call 573-4826 for information. — ***EA***

Family feud in county GOP

A new controversy is brewing in the local Republican Party.

This one started when new state Sen. Owen Hill offered his endorsement in the upcoming race for the El Paso County GOP chairman. In that endorsement, which went to the current vice-chair Dave Williams, Hill wrote in part: "I need your help back here at home to rebuild our County Party that has been discredited by ineffective, out-of-touch, and even corrupt leadership."

The current chairman, Eli Bremer, was none too pleased, and wrote as much in an e-mail to members of the party's central committee. This response, in which Bremer accused Hill of having "chosen a path of deception," was not well-received by Sen. Kent Lambert, who brought his concerns to state GOP party chairman Ryan Call. Call declined to comment on how he would deal with the feud. — ***CH***

Compiled by Edie Adelstein, Chet Hardin, J. Adrian Stanley and Pam Zubeck.

News

Union station

Senate Bill 11 emerges as a major engine of change for an increasingly empowered LGBT population

By Chet Hardin

The Rev. Nori Rost was speaking of the elected officials in the room: "Let them come together in such a way that the people of Colorado — all people of Colorado: wealthy, poor, straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, people of all races and ethnicities and faith traditions, those who inhale and those who don't — that all these people of Colorado are served and that the interests of this fine state are served well."

Bryan Oller

Delivering the Legislature's invocation put the Rev. Nori Rost in a historic role.

This was a historic moment in Colorado's Senate chambers.

Rost, an openly gay minister with Colorado Springs' All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, delivered the Jan. 9 invocation starting the 69th session of the state's General Assembly. In the House, the Denver Gay Men's Chorus performed, and the gavel was passed from Rep. Frank McNulty, the Republican lawmaker who stalled last year's session and killed a civil unions bill, to openly gay Democratic Speaker Mark Ferrandino.

"We have this great opportunity," Rost later told the *Indy*, "to make historic changes that will advance the cause of justice for all people."

The most historic change would come via passage of Senate Bill 11, authorizing civil unions in Colorado. The bill hasn't made its way through the Legislature yet, but with Democrats controlling both chambers, there's little doubt of its passage. As soon as May 1, LGBT couples throughout the state may be able to visit their local county clerk, plunk down $20 for a civil-union license, and obtain almost all of the rights afforded to married heterosexual couples.

Almost.

While couples joined in a civil union would have expanded rights to, say, medical and end-of-life decision-making for their partners, bill sponsor Sen. Pat Steadman says they will still not be able to file their state income taxes jointly.

"Colorado's income tax is coupled with the federal tax code," says the Denver legislator. "... So, if you weren't able to file a joint return federally, it's a little difficult to figure out where to start filling out your tax forms if you are trying to file jointly at the state level."

To fix this, the state would have to create new forms for those in civil unions, a task that seems unlikely, according to Brad Clark, executive director of ONE Colorado.

And there are still limitations to civil unions, Clark notes, thanks to federal law. For example, straight couples enjoy access to a dedicated immigration process when one partner is not a U.S. citizen, but wants to move here; gay couples do not.

Gay couples who marry in a state where it is legal, such as New York, will automatically be granted civil union status in Colorado, (though Clark suggests they still get a license). However, since federal law doesn't recognize gay marriages or unions, Coloradans who form a civil union might lose their rights if they move to another state.

But even federal law is up for discussion this year. In March, the Supreme Court is slated to host oral arguments on the constitutionality of California's Proposition 8 and the federal Defense of Marriage Act. If the court finds unconstitutional the definition of marriage as a union between one man and one woman, individual states — including Colorado — could see nullification of their constitutional bans on gay marriage.

"I believe that in the very near future the Supreme Court's going to do for marriage equality for sexsame couples as it did for marriage equality for interracial couples," says Rost, "and all those silly state laws are going to be moot."

— chet@csindy.com

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TRANSHUMAN EXPRESS

Futurist inventor Ray Kurzweil blurs the boundaries between man and machine

By Bill Forman

Futurist forecasting has long been the object of strange fascination. Specific doomsday predictions — whether derived from the Mayan calendar or calculated by Christian radio host Harold Camping — have earned widespread media coverage, prompting no small amount of ridicule and what almost seemed like disappointment the day after.

As the Amazing Criswell dramatically intoned at the beginning of *Plan 9 From Outer Space*, "We are all interested in the future, for that is where you and I are going to spend the rest of our lives."

And those lives — in one form or another — may extend further into the future than most of us imagine. Even science fiction writers have had trouble keeping up with exponentially increasing scientific breakthroughs — from nanotechnology to artificial intelligence — that can be both hopeful and troubling.

Ray Kurzweil, on the other hand, has had no problem staying ahead of the curve. Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates called him "the best person I know at predicting the future of artificial intelligence." *Time* magazine published a 2011 cover story on him called "2045: The Year Man Becomes Immortal."

And just last month, Kurzweil joined forces with Google as its director of engineering, a high-level position in which he'll essentially be prepping computers to pass the Turing Test, at which point they'll be intellectually indistinguishable from human beings. In 2002, Kurzweil bet Lotus inventor Mitchell Kapor $20,000 that would happen by 2029. And in his 2005 bestseller *The Singularity is Near*, he went a step further, predicting a merging point between humans and machines in, yes, the year 2045.

Kurzweil's predictions might seem all the more far-fetched were it not for his real-life track-record as an inventor. Back in the '80s, after betting Stevie Wonder that a synthesizer could replicate the sound of a piano — anybody see a pattern here? — he invented one that did. Kurzweil and Wonder had become friends in the mid-'70s, when the musician purchased the first Kurzweil Reading Machine, a washing-machine-sized invention that scanned and spoke printed text. And in 2008, Kurzweil replicated the accomplishment with what Gizmodo dubbed "the first seeing-eye cellphone."

In advance of a Jan. 23 speaking engagement at Colorado State University-Pueblo, Ray Kurzweil spoke with the *Indy* last week about many of the above topics, along with the practical impact and ethical implications of a potentially post-human future.

Michael Lutch

With his new Google gig, Kurzweil may be positioned to make some of his most controversial predictions come true.

***Indy*: I'd like to begin by asking about your talk in Pueblo. I assume that, in light of your latest book [*How to Create a Mind*], progress in reverse-engineering the human brain will be a significant part of it. But I'm also guessing there'll be more to it than that?**

Ray Kurzweil: Well, it's kind of a culmination of my thinking. I've been interested in the evolution of technology. Early in my youth, I was timing my own technology projects, and with that I developed the theory of the Law of Accelerating Returns, that information technology progresses in an exponential manner.

But our intuition is linear, not exponential. Exponential and linear progressions start out similarly, but end up radically different. That's why my predictions very often seem startling, you know, 10 or 20 years out, but then people very quickly get used to changed circumstances when they actually do happen.

I wrote a paper exactly 50 years ago when I was 14, as a Westinghouse Talent Search submission, about how I thought the brain worked. I had this theory that actually was quite compatible with the theory in the recent book, that human thinking is based on pattern recognition, not logical thinking.

I also did a project where a computer used pattern recognition to recognize melodies in music and then to write original melodies based on the patterns it found. And so I got to meet President Johnson and appear on national television. And that was 50 years ago.

And it's actually only recently that the advances in information technology, such as brain scanning, are enabling us to see inside a living brain with enough resolution and specificity to actually see what's going on. So some of the best evidence of my theory that I present in the book really came out in this past year, while I was writing the book.

So I'll be presenting that whole thesis: what the empirical evidence is, how that applies to the brain, how exponential gains in both hardware and software will lead to more intelligent machines, and what impact that will have on society.

***Indy*: There are a lot of dystopian depictions of technology in popular culture, from William Gibson's cyberpunk novels to HAL 9000 refusing to open the pod bay door in *2001*. And then there are people like Buckminster Fuller, who saw technology as the solution to our biggest problems. Would you say you fall into the latter camp, or do you see technology as essentially neutral?**

RK: Well, I've written about both the promise and the peril. In fact, Chapter 8 of *The Singularity Is Near* is called the "The Deeply Intertwined Promise and Peril of GNR." The "GNR" refers to the three technology revolutions: Genetics, Nanotechnology and Robotics. Robotics is another word for artificial intelligence.

And technology *has* been a double-edged sword. The fire that keeps us warm can also burn down our villages. That being said, the evidence is quite clear that human life has steadily increased even though the technology of, let's say, violence has certainly increased enormously in sophistication. Yet the average person dying from interpersonal violence has come down dramatically by a factor of hundreds over the last few centuries. And that's because of the relative prosperity and abundance that our technology has provided. Whereas people who lived in an economy of extreme scarcity were quick to resolve disputes in a violent manner.

You can look at any indicator you want. Look at health. Your life expectancy was 20 a thousand years ago, it was 37 in 1800, it was 48 in 1900, pushing 80 today. I have an analysis that shows that within 15 years we'll be adding more than a year, every year, to your remaining life expectancy, which is kind of the tipping point.

Or look at democracy. There were relatively few democracies a century ago, even a half-century ago. I wrote that the Soviet Union would be swept away by the then-emerging decentralized electronic communication. I wrote that in the '80s, when the Soviet Union was going strong. People

The young innovator (left) shows Stevie Wonder the Kurzweil 250 synthesizer.

thought that was crazy — that the Soviet Union could be swept away by a few teletype machines and e-mail over phone lines and so on — but that's exactly what happened.

So these technologies have clearly benefited more than they have harmed us. I felt like part of my own brain went on strike during that one-day SOPA strike [a 2012 blackout by Google, Wikipedia and others in protest of federal anti-piracy bills], because I'm so dependent on these brain extenders. Yet they didn't even exist, you know, about a decade ago.

***Indy*: It's amazing how quickly your individual consciousness can integrate with these technologies to the point where they become second nature.**

RK: Right. But that's not to say there aren't real dangers, like privacy. There are also existential risks.

For example, we are now in the process of reprogramming the information processes of our own biology, to program biology *away* from cancer, away from heart disease, and so on. But those same technologies could be used by a bioterrorist to reprogram a relatively benign biological virus — like a cold or flu virus — and make it very deadly and very communicable.

I'm not saying that we're defenseless. In fact, I've personally worked for the U.S. Army on this issue. Fifteen years ago, when biotechnology was fairly new, they had a bioterrorism-protection program and they took me around and said, "OK, here's our section that protects people from anthrax. And here's where we do research on protecting people from smallpox." They said, "Here, we've got some great smallpox samples, would you like to see them?" I said, "Maybe some other time."

***Indy*: And this was before the anthrax threats surrounding 9/11?**

RK: This was before that. So I said, "Well, where's the section that deals with a brand new virus you haven't seen before, which somebody cooks up in a bioengineering laboratory?" And they said, "Is that possible?" And I said, "Well it's actually not easy, but it's going to get easier. And it *is* possible."

So today, it's still not easy, but it's actually a lot easier than it was 15 years ago. But there is now a rapid-response system. In terms of sequencing the virus under question, that used to be very slow. In fact, it was actually not feasible. HIV took five years to sequence, SARS took 31 days, we can now sequence a virus in one day. Another example of the acceleration I talk about.

So this system will sequence the virus, create either an RNA interference medication that deactivates it or an antigen-based vaccine, and a lot of these can be tested in simulators. So there *is* a rapid-response system, but we can't just cross that off our list of things to worry about, anymore than we can cross software viruses off that list. If we did, our whole system would be obsolete tomorrow.

***Indy*: So can an organization like the CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] keep up to speed on all that?**

RK: I think we are now keeping up to speed, but we're gonna have to keep at it. We have a technological immune system for software viruses, and we now have one for biological viruses. And both need to be updated constantly, because the technology attacks keep getting more sophisticated.

So my point is that there *are* things to worry about. There are also things we can do about them. We don't just sit back and worry in an idle manner.

***Indy*: Or stop investing in it, right? Which I imagine is what some people want to do.**

RK: Well, I mean, everybody supports it in *theory.* But, you know, whether it actually gets the resources it needs, with everybody trying to make cuts, is another matter.

I try to articulate the need to make investments in this. The problem is you don't see the danger — I mean nobody's been killed in a biological attack — but, you know, that doesn't mean we shouldn't invest in it. Because you can't just measure the danger based on past experiences.

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The Kroh Family - October 2012
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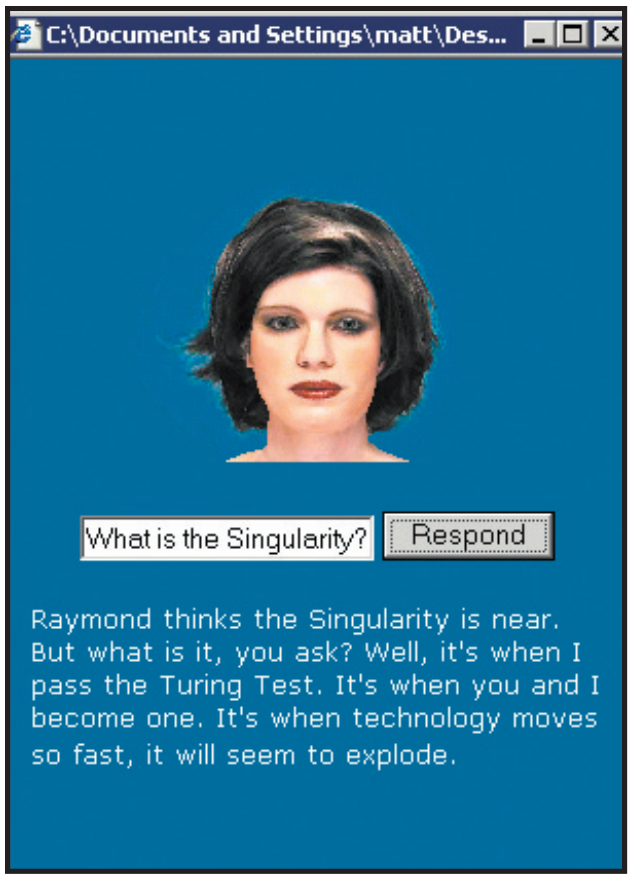
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What is the Singularity?
Respond
Raymond thinks the Singularity is near. But what is it, you ask? Well, it's when I pass the Turing Test. It's when you and I become one. It's when technology moves so fast, it will seem to explode.

2002 screen shot of Ramona, the virtual host of Kurzweil's website, captured in mid-conversation.

***Indy*: Returning to the less lethal subject of privacy, I saw an interview where you mentioned how, on your first day at Google, it was clear privacy is a "sacred trust" that every employee must maintain. But I'm curious about policy statements Google posted back in 2004, where they acknowledged that they'd be picking up on keywords from within your Gmail messages and then presenting you with ads from companies with related products. Are there privacy issues involved with mining that kind of personal information? And will the technology surrounding that be part of what you're doing there?**

RK: Well, I'm not the right expert to talk to here at Google about exactly what the policies are. I can just report that it's taken extremely seriously. Anytime any software goes out of research and into an actual product, there's very stringent privacy reviews by groups that are charged with doing that. There's an understanding that if users felt that their privacy was being infringed, or had been infringed, that that would be very damaging for all parties concerned, particularly Google.

But at the same time, Google wants to provide useful services, and it's useful to know *something* about the user in order to be helpful. If you have a friend that's trying to guide you through certain information and find things for you, you want that friend to know something about you, otherwise it's gonna keep giving you the wrong information. So that has to be balanced against the need to keep the information private, while providing useful services. My mission here is to help understand natural language documents ...

***Indy*: Which is a different area?**

RK: Yeah, although Google could become aware that you are worried about the bioavailability of Vitamin B-12, and therefore without you even asking, it would tell you that, well, 12 seconds ago this new research came out on this issue you're interested in. But it would have to know that you're interested in that issue.

So there'll have to be some kind of flexible interface, where you can let Google know what kinds of information you're interested in, you know, while having confidence that that's gonna be kept confidential.

***Indy*: So then is it basically machines reading your e-mail, rather than people? Or, I should say, scanning your e-mail for keywords.**

RK: Yeah, my mission is to go beyond keywords to actually pick up semantic meaning of documents in general. Because you know, search is still obviously based on keywords. There is AI entering into it already, but it still doesn't fully understand the meaning of all the sentences in the documents, and there's a lot of information that's contained in that semantic content.

But we'd like to enhance search [capability] by having the system actually understand what all those billions of documents mean, at least to some extent. I don't think we'll get *human* levels of understanding, by my analysis, until 2029.

I've worked in this area for decades, and I've pioneered some of the techniques that are used in artificial intelligence today. So what I have the opportunity to do *here* is to take certain methods and apply them to what they call Google scale. There's just a vast amount of data and information that exists here, vast computing resources with many millions of computers, not to mention, you know, hundreds of millions of users. So it's a great opportunity. I couldn't do this kind of work anywhere else.

***Indy*: Do you think that your sharing of resources and knowledge with Google could in fact hasten the Singularity?**

RK: Well, that sort of brings up this interesting issue. People say, "Well, these trends are so inexorable and predictable, why don't we all sit back and just take it easy for the next 20 years, and let it unfold and not have to work very hard?" And then of course it wouldn't happen.

But I think what we *can* count on is

people's passion, curiosity and creativity. In fact, the opportunities are even greater, because more and more people have the resources to *do* this type of work. Google itself was started by a couple of kids in college with notebook computers in their dorm rooms. So we all have very powerful tools, but the tools that exist *here* are more powerful than you can find anywhere else.

***Indy*: More powerful than what DARPA [the federal government's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency] has?**

RK: Well, DARPA is funding lots of independent research at universities. There's a lot of other resources available, but Google has some very unique capabilities. It's a very good place for me to be. I mean, I guess I intuitively take my own and everyone else's efforts into account when I make predictions.

***Indy*: So you've got 16 years — with $20,000 riding on it — for the Turing Test to be passed. Did you take the Google job to make sure you could cover the bet?**

RK: [Laughs.] I've got *more* than 16 years, because it doesn't say *when* in 2029 that it would happen. We're only in January. Yeah, that's one of my motivations here, to make sure I win the bet.

***Indy*: This may seem like an odd question, but in regard to a computer passing the Turing Test or having more intellectual capabilities than we do, to what degree would that be the result of computers becoming more intelligent, or us becoming less so?**

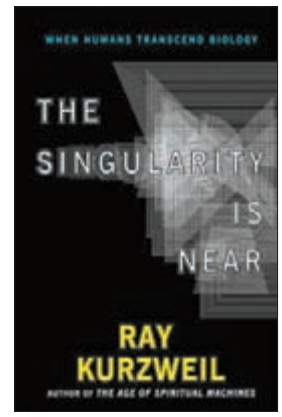
RK: Oh, I think we're becoming more intelligent. By "we," I'm including our brain extenders. I mean, I've been managing work groups for 45 years. I can have a handful of people that, in a matter of weeks, can accomplish what used to take a hundred to two hundred people years.

Folks say, "Oh, these brain extenders make us stupid because we forget how to do things on our own." But it reminds me of the controversy when I went to college — about these devices that look a lot like your phone today, called calculators — if they were gonna make kids stupider and forget how to do arithmetic. And indeed arithmetic skills *have* gone down, but the calculators haven't gone away. You know, we create tools to make up for our own limitations.

So they're definitely making us smarter, but it *is* a human-machine civilization. We have tools now that can access, you know, almost all of human knowledge that we carry around at all times. These are fantastic tools that make us smarter, but indeed we probably don't remember as much because we learn to rely on them. But that reliance is well-justified.

***Indy*: There's a prevailing science-fiction trope, especially in recent years, involving a person's individual consciousness being extended indefinitely by some form of digital replication or emulation. To what extent do you see that as a real possibility, and if so how soon?**

RK: In my recent book, I talk about the three issues of consciousness, free will and identity. They're not really resolvable through scientific analysis alone. They're truly philosophical issues, and some people therefore conclude they're meaningless issues. But I argue against that, because our whole moral system is based on consciousness.



The bestseller that brought the author his singular fame.

So you really need to understand who and what is conscious, and whether an entity is a continuation of the consciousness of another entity.

So it's a complicated issue. I mean, if I had to boil it down in terms of preservation of identity or consciousness, I would point to continuity of patterns. So if a person puts a computer in their brain, for example, as Parkinson's patients have done, they're not radically changing their brain, they're changing one part of it. There's a fundamental continuity with most of it. And so we reasonably conclude it's the same person.

***Indy*: So biology is not disposable.**

RK: No. I mean, you could continue that argument — that if you go down that slippery slope, and every day you replace another little bit of their biology with a non-biological system that performs exactly the same, or close enough, you would still have a continuity of patterning. You would eventually have changed the substrain. But I think it's the pattern of information processing — not the substrain it runs on — that's important.

And I think we *will* be introducing non-biological processes into our brain. And according to the Law of Accelerating Returns, that non-biological component of our thinking is gonna grow exponentially. So if you look ahead to, let's say, the 2040s, it's gonna predominate. And so we *will* be mostly non-biological at that point. But that doesn't mean we're a different person, because we've maintained the continuity of identity all through the process.

— bill@csindy.com

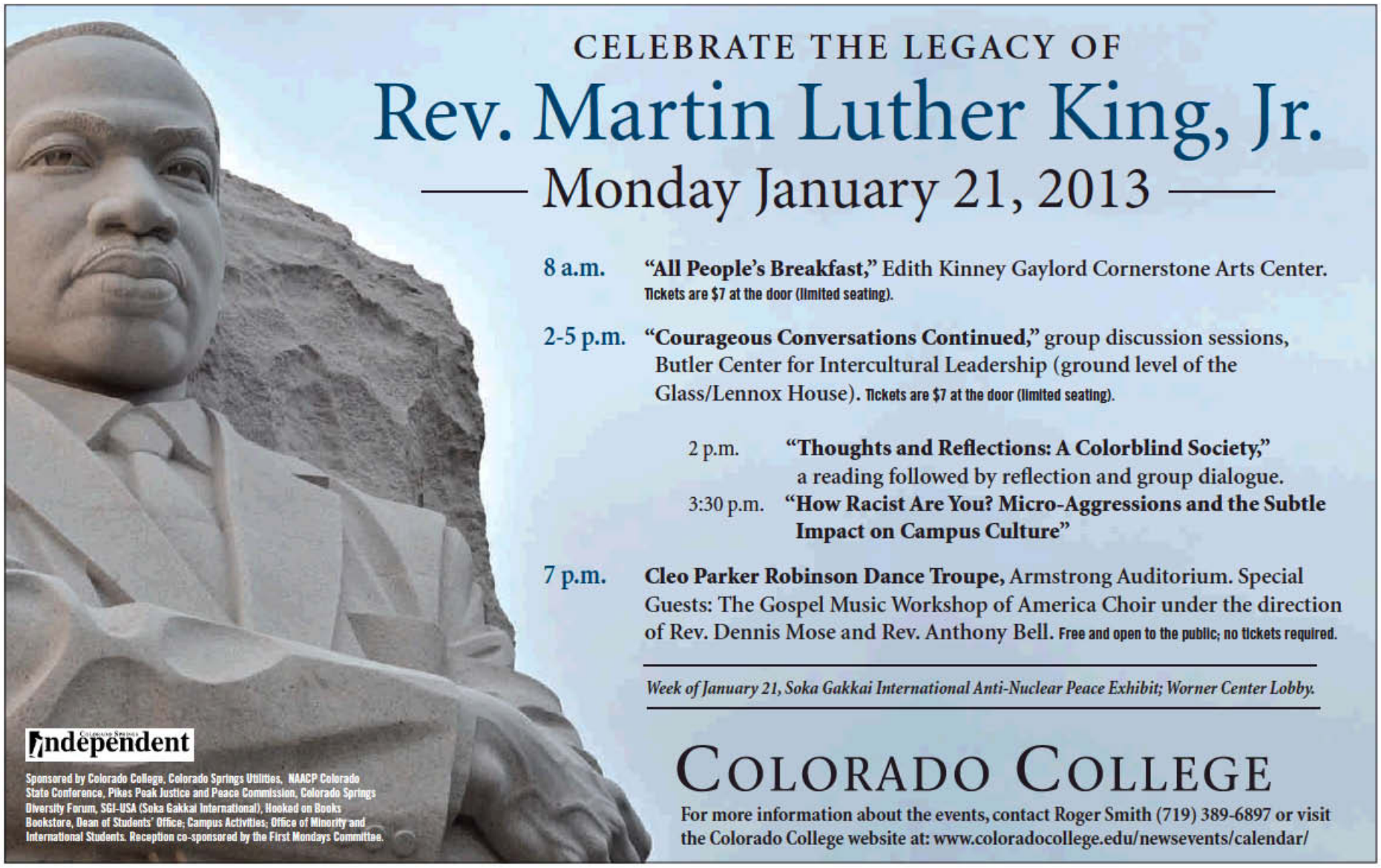
CAPSULE

Distinguished Speaker Series: Ray Kurzweil

Wednesday, Jan. 23, 7 p.m.

CSU-Pueblo's Occhiato University Center Ballroom, 2200 Bonforte Blvd., Pueblo

Free; colostate-pueblo.edu, 719/549-2100.


CELEBRATE THE LEGACY OF
Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Monday January 21, 2013
8 a.m. "All People's Breakfast," Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center. Tickets are $7 at the door (limited seating).
2-5 p.m. "Courageous Conversations Continued," group discussion sessions, Butler Center for Intercultural Leadership (ground level of the Glass/Lennox House). Tickets are $7 at the door (limited seating).
2 p.m. "Thoughts and Reflections: A Colorblind Society," a reading followed by reflection and group dialogue.
3:30 p.m. "How Racist Are You? Micro-Aggressions and the Subtle Impact on Campus Culture"
7 p.m. Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Troupe, Armstrong Auditorium. Special Guests: The Gospel Music Workshop of America Choir under the direction of Rev. Dennis Mose and Rev. Anthony Bell. Free and open to the public; no tickets required.
Week of January 21, Soka Gakkai International Anti-Nuclear Peace Exhibit; Worner Center Lobby.
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For more information about the events, contact Roger Smith (719) 389-6897 or visit the Colorado College website at: www.coloradocollege.edu/newsevents/calendar/

Poli-ticked

Lewis Black made a career from crankiness, and he's just as angry as ever

On paper, Lewis Black's success doesn't add up. He works in a medium that most of his Comedy Central colleagues would have you believe to be the utter antithesis of, or even a solution to, rant-laden ideological politicking. But Black's comedy is unequivocally political, and plenty rant-laden.

That in mind, I ask if he might even consider himself something of a pundit.

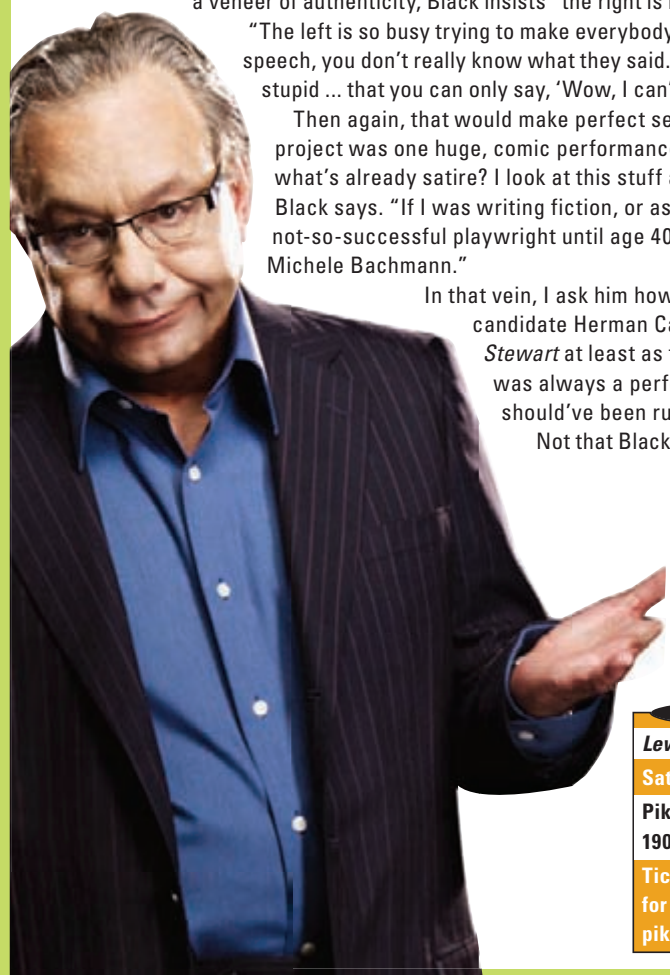
"I hope not," replies the man known to riff on (for example) the merits of Keynesian macroeconomic theory. "I'm a comedian. If I can't get laughs out of this shit, then I'm done."

Which leaves us with ideology, and Black's is decidedly different from those of his subjects: He pokes fun at whatever stupidity enters his crosshairs. Black is an equal-opportunity offender, a guy just looking to make comedy that he believes could double as "the logic of the situation."

"The more something is the truth, the funnier it can be," he says. After a beat, he adds the requisite touch of humility to any discussion of epistemology: "I don't know why."

I press for more on why Black thinks his seemingly didactic, quasi-punditry still manages to ring hilarious. "The kids like what I do because I'm not the adult telling them what to do, I'm telling them that the adults that they're dealing with are as dumb as they think they are."

Certainly, the one-time star of *Lewis Black's Root of All Evil* accomplishes one thing that pundits, left or right, fail to: He is genuinely funny. Even as lefty journalists increasingly attempt plugged-in humor to give their agendas a veneer of authenticity, Black insists "the right is funnier.



"The left is so busy trying to make everybody feel good that by the time they finish the speech, you don't really know what they said. And the right says stuff that's so profoundly stupid ... that you can only say, 'Wow, I can't believe they said that.'"

Then again, that would make perfect sense if it turned out that the entire right-wing project was one huge, comic performance from the get-go. "How do you out-satire what's already satire? I look at this stuff and say, you know, I wish I'd thought of it," Black says. "If I was writing fiction, or as a playwright"— Black, 64, worked as a not-so-successful playwright until age 40 —"I would love to create a character like Michele Bachmann."

In that vein, I ask him how he feels about former Republican presidential candidate Herman Cain appearing now on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* at least as frequently as Black himself. "Herman Cain was always a performer," he replies. "There is no reason he should've been running for the president. That was absurd."

Not that Black is some kind of Democrat, or worse, an insipid cheerleader for centrism or "bipartisanship." (In fact, he professes to be a card-carrying socialist.) He's fond of saying that "the only thing dumber than a Republican or a Democrat is when these pricks work together." With the ink still wet on Congress' last-minute compromise solution to the "fiscal cliff," let's hope he's wrong.

CAPSULE

Lewis Black: The Rant is Due

Saturday, Jan. 19, 8 p.m.

Pikes Peak Center,
190 S. Cascade Ave.

Tickets: $45-$59.50;
for more, call 477-2100 or visit
pikespeakcenter.com.

— Wyatt Miller

Nuclear family

When it comes to heirs, Henry II has his royal hands nearly full

It's Christmas 1183, and Henry II and his estranged wife Eleanor of Aquitaine are immersed in family treachery. The question of who will succeed Henry has brought the family to its knees. It doesn't help that Henry has had Eleanor locked in a tower for a decade.

Welcome to Springs Ensemble Theatre's production of James Goldman's 1966 play *The Lion in Winter*. Though coolly received when it opened, it garnered Rosemary Harris (Eleanor) a Tony Award, and eventually nabbed three Oscars when Goldman adapted it for film in 1968.

"What I loved about this piece was that it was written with modern language and it has those modern dynamics and status interactions," says University of Colorado at Colorado Springs professor Sarah Shaver, who's directing the play.

Shaver was drawn to the story's cutting wit, malice and menace. She says you'll see people bound by love, and feel the pain that comes when they hurt each other. Other themes explored include homosexuality, flagrant misogyny and the lingering vestiges of childhood.

Shaver has cast local favorites Mike Miller as Henry and Amy Brooks as Eleanor, leading up-and-comers such as Jessica Parnello as Henry's mistress and Shayn Megilligan as the youngest of his three sons. Accenting the atmosphere of familial scheming is an original score by group newcomer Ambrose Freeman-Toole.

CAPSULE

The Lion in Winter

Jan. 17 through Feb. 3;
Thursdays through
Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.,
Jan. 27 and Feb. 3 at 4 p.m.

Springs Ensemble Theatre,
1903 E. Cache la Poudre St.

Tickets: $10-$15; for
more information,
call 357-3080 or visit
springsensembletheatre.org.

As for the costumes, designer Jillmarie Peterson avoided plastics and faux leather to make garments as period-accurate as possible. But to stick with SET's modest budget, she used some decidedly contemporary resources: One leather corset is actually a recycled leather jacket found at Goodwill.

— Joshua Michael Torres

4Play

Other options to get you excited about your week.

BACKUP PLAN
Fasching Winter Karneval, 7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 19 at Pueblo's Union Depot

BEFORE YOU KNOW IT
COSine science fiction convention, Jan. 25-27, at the Crowne Plaza

POTATO PICK
King of the Nerds series premiere, 8 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 17 on TBS

HAVE YOU HEARD?
How flush (or not) is your neighborhood? richblockspoorblocks.com

16 Wednesday

art

The power of rhyme compels you: Attend **FAB LAB** from 3:30 to 5:30 today (or any Wednesday) at the **Business of Art Center** (513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1589). Crafty local nonprofit Concrete Couch is your host in the wood or metal shop, or "OutBAC," as you create something artsy (from mosaic backsplashes to "weird welded things," in the words of Concrete Couch svengali Steve Wood) or fix a broken item (hand tools, chairs, etc.) that you're encouraged to bring. Think: creative community handymen. There'll be banging. Maybe some welding. Dust and sparks will fly! Things will be repurposed for the good of all mankind, and occasionally people will high-five afterward. It'll be ... *fab*ulous. **— *MS***

17 Thursday

drink

2013 marks the 80th anniversary of the repeal of Prohibition — at least in most states. Mississippi, for one, held out until 1966, and Kansas banned public bars until 1987. Regardless, around here Prohibition's *so* eight decades ago, and **Coquette's Bistro & Bakery** (915 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, coquettesbistroandbakery.com) wants to celebrate at 6:30 tonight, the first of its themed cocktail nights. Dress in costume and come ready to get busy with appetizers, pictures and era-specific cocktails. **— *BC***

18 Friday

music

A little heat is a good thing — whether it comes in the form of the sun kissing your neck, a feisty moment between lovers, or in this case, an evening with the **Reverend Horton Heat**. If you need to get your blood rushing, I'd recommend starting at 8 tonight at the **Black Sheep** (2106 E. Platte Ave., blacksheeprocks.com) with the Dallas psychobilly trio known for its high-energy, upright bass-thumping, hard-driving performances. Reno Divorce opens the all-ages show; $17.50 in advance, $22 at the door. **— *KA***

19 Saturday

art

The **Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center** (30 W. Dale St., csfineartscenter.org) sees itself as a DJ with its "Raiding the Crates" series, in which it digs through its 20,000-piece collection for its artistic equivalent of "classic tunes" to display. Past "Crates" exhibitions included the preliminary sketches made for the FAC's 75th anniversary mural and works that responded to its James Turrell/Scott Johnson show. Now, the FAC is unveiling ***Wrap Art: Guatemalan Textiles from the Permanent Collection***, on display today through May 26, overseen by guest curator Beth Olson. Vivid and merry, the textiles represent a tradition stretching back thousands of years. Now that's classic. Admission is free for members, and $8.50 to $10 for others. **— *EA***

20 Sunday

music

After years of local hip-hop, jazz and soul musicians informally sitting in on each other's sets, there's finally an ongoing event specifically dedicated to that sort of collaboration. **Sunday Night Soul Sessions at Zodiac** (230 Pueblo Ave., zodiacvenue.com) is a monthly series that debuted back in October. Hosted by Andrew Wilson, the showcase features a live house band — including Lyrick from Kopesetik Soul on drums, Maddix Jay on keyboards, and Charlie Milo on bass — backing up a variety of singers and emcees. Tonight's session will also feature a 40-minute set from **A Black Day**, the much-recommended collective featuring Milogic from the Sound Powered Engine crew, HoTT from Audible, Jayoin from Mad Trees, and Ahmad Mitchell from Fidel Redstar. Music starts at 8, cover is $5. **— *BF***

21 Monday

dance

Denver's **Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Troupe** is named for the woman who started it 42 years ago. At 7 tonight, 10 of her performers will take to the stage for free with the Gospel Music Workshop of America Choir at **Colorado College's Armstrong Hall** (14 E. Cache la Poudre St., coloradocollege.edu) to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy. Apropos, as Robinson believes the heart of dance is "quite spiritual, and very healing. Very transforming and liberating. And revealing. And uniting. When people can't talk about things, maybe they can begin to move together and connect on a different level." **— *KA***

22 Tuesday

art

Egyptian artist **Basim Magdy** likes to promote the incongruities in life. In a 2007 article, the multimedia artist said: "Absurdity perplexes a lot of people. I think we tend to think more about the things we don't understand, because they challenge us ... This, for me is where confusion could become the means of subversion." Magdy also incorporates sarcasm and humor in his pieces, making for a strange mix. Take one work coming to **Colorado College's Coburn Gallery** (902 N. Cascade Ave., blog.coloradocollege.edu/ideaspace), in which a smile is drawn on a flower petal, underscored by a line of text: "No one will ever care." Perplexed? Then check out his solo show, opening today with a 4:30 reception and artist's talk. The show's free through March 8. **— *EA***

Contributors: Edie Adelstein, Kirsten Akens, Bryce Crawford, Bill Forman and Matthew Schniper.

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Appetite

Happy Jack

Falcon's new Mexican joint puts the fun in fundido

By Bryce Crawford

There's a new mean, median and mode for regional Mexican, and it's in the middle of a shopping center in Falcon. Guadalajara Family Mexican Restaurant, a four-location Colorado chain, is my new go-to for provisions likely to please the picky and prodigious alike, not only because of its hugely diverse menu, but also because it's got a little bit of everything.

Brienne Boortz

Go east, young folk, and seek the succulence in the Sopa Siete Mares.

Think of the big restaurant as a more interesting On the Border: You've got your wooden-plank accents, wrought-iron dividers and pastel teals, oranges and reds. You've got your bombastic pink, plastic booths, like those at Arceo's Mexican Restaurant, as well as your country pastoral scenes. You've even got small statues of Brahma bulls, complete with dangling Rocky Mountain oysters, sitting on booth ledges.

And on the menu you've got everything else — really. Page after page offers different kinds of seafood and chicken and beef and salads and burritos and soups and appetizers. Though not everything's worth a trip east from, say, downtown, we never ran into anything we'd be too heartbroken to eat again, especially considering portions the size of serving trays.

The Mexican Pizza ($7.95), for instance, is filling enough to *be* two meals, let alone begin *one*. It's essentially a seven-layer dip, plus muddy ground chorizo, spread over a buttery crisped tortilla, and it fairly demands to be paired with alcohol. The Ultimate Margarita ($9.50) is not a bad option, with its Patrón Silver, but an over-pour of Cointreau made ours taste too much like orange extract. (Plus, it weirdly came in a filtered shaker, so we poured ice-free refills into a small, barely salted martini glass.)

The eponymous Molcajete ($17.25) promised "tender pieces of beef, chicken and grilled pork" in "our new Mexican green sauce and pico de gallo." Definitely green with avocado, the huge stone bowl came off like hot, sour guacamole with melted Jack cheese — bizarre for an entrée, but with delicious chunks of meat, really not bad in warm flour tortillas.

Before I go further, let's talk about the restaurant's salsa, because it's phenomenal. Thin, loose and dark red, it packs in enough impressive, oily heat that it tastes like it just came off the taco truck. Little bits of chili skin get stuck in your teeth, then your taste buds, then your brain.

The same cannot be said of the Camarones Culichi ($13.50), a dish that seemed to deploy extra butter into the spinach sauce to distract from the rubbery prawns. The Carne Asada a la Tampiqueña ($13.50) offered something of a comeback with a juicy steak so thin you could tear it, but a weak mole enchilada brought it down.

In our next visit, our Queso Fundido ($5.95) appetizer brought some nice, cumin-heavy chorizo under a cap of melted Jack — more filling, fun-to-eat tortilla fare — while a Chile Verde ($8.95) delivered both tender and overcooked pork chunks in a tangy tomatillo sauce.

A clear knockout, though, was the Sopa Siete Mares ($16.50), a giant seafood stew that simply defies completion. Filets of whitefish, tiny scallops, clams, mussels, chunks of calamari lined in purple, plump shrimp and protruding crab legs swam in a salty, cilantro-rich tomato broth. With a pile of shells left over at the end, it was a damn good time.

And there's more where that came from. Take our server at lunch: "I'll come back in a couple of minutes," he advised us. "And those are going to be Mexican minutes, so please be patient."

— bryce@csindy.com

CAPSULE

Guadalajara Family Mexican Restaurant
7336 McLaughlin Road, Falcon, 494-0700
Daily, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

SIDE Dish

Culinary crumbs & gastronomic gossip

Creamery expands

After more than 30 years in business, **Colorado City Creamery** (2602 W. Colorado Ave., 634-1411) once again has added a second location, this time in the Promenade Shops at Briargate (1605 Briargate Pkwy., #107).

Owner Carrie Burris explains that when she bought the Creamery nine years ago, it had a Rockrimmon location; she decided to close it a few years later because it was under-performing. She'd briefly entertained securing a spot in the University Village shopping center, and says she only opted for this expansion because it was turnkey.

The space formerly was a MaggieMoo's franchise owned by an acquaintance, whom Burris says was fatigued with the business. Since it was already outfitted for ice cream, Burris took over with little effort last October.

As for the brand's local popularity, the original recipes continue to be served in eateries such as Poor Richard's, Panino's, and on the Broadmoor's property. Burris says her handmade process is what makes it special, including the use of real ingredients, such as whole pistachios versus synthetic flavoring.

Slow steep

This past October, we told you about two coffee projects that hoped to open around the new year. As is wont to happen with new construction efforts, some unexpected delays have pushed both of those grand-opening celebrations back.

Randy Fair says **Jives Coffee Lounge**'s (jivescoffeelounge.com) second coffee shop, in the former Rocky Mountain Motorcycle Museum just outside Pikes Peak Harley-Davidson at 5865 N. Nevada Ave., is now on track to open sometime in February. **Mission Coffee Roasters**' (missioncoffeeroasters.com) Brett Bixler says his new roastery, café and co-working space at 11641 Ridgeline Drive, #170, should be open in February as well, possibly in the first half of the month.

À la carte

• **Cupcake Girls** (302 E. Platte Ave., cupcakegirls.co) launched a new boxed-lunch special last week, served between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., Wednesdays and Fridays currently. For $6, you get a daily lunch special item, such as a Southwestern veggie soup, plus a drink and mini cupcake.

• **Faerie Tales Bakehouse and Catering** (faerietalesbakehouseandcatering.com) has closed at 1015 W. Colorado Ave. According to a newsletter, the venue's property owner will be selling the space, forcing the business to move. For the time being, Faerie Tales will still bake cakes and provide catering services, out of a home base elsewhere.

• **The Black Bear** (10375 Ute Pass Road, coloradoeats.com/blackbear) continues its Sunday Charity Dinner series this winter, with five-course meals from 6 to 9 p.m. for $50. All profits will go to each evening's charity, such as Nothing But Nets (Jan. 20) and Café Reconcile New Orleans (Feb. 17).

— ***Matthew Schniper***

APPETIZERS

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Benny's
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711 Dale Street
in Fountain
382-7562
cmoninnfountain.com
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Hatchcover Bar & Grill
252 E. Cheyenne Mtn. Blvd.
(@ 115)
719-576-5223
If bars are hairstyles, We're the mullet! Large groups for business lunch by day, long flowing party by night! Menu ranges from fantastic nachos to juicy ribeyes! Specials day & night! 7 days a week, Open Late! Around since the 70's, our style just won't die!

The Mason Jar
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30th St
632-4820
MasonJarColorado.com
American Comfort Food served in a casual Colorado lodge atmosphere. Famous Chicken Fried Steak and real mashed potatoes, Slow Roasted Prime Rib, plus soups, salads, great Burgers, and Homemade Cobblers. Full service bar. A Family Tradition for thirty years. Serving lunch and dinner from 11am daily.

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South Side Johnny's
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Daily 11am-2am. "It's better to eat at a bar, than drink at a restaurant." South downtown bar and grill serving burgers, steaks, pastas, salads, and classic home-style entrees like meat loaf & open faced carvings. Big screen TV, free parking, Happy Hour Daily 4-7.

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111E. Boulder
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Now open in downtown Colorado Springs! 1980's video games. Daily lunch specials. Beer, wine and cocktails. Innovative menu. supernovabarcode.com

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2415 W. Colorado Ave.
Colorado Springs
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Voted BEST Westside Bar & BEST Karaoke. Open 11am-2am daily. Where the locals eat & drink Craft Beer! Tuesday nights-Geeks Who Drink. Karaoke Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights! Sunday Happy Hour ALL DAY!

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tonysdowntownbar.com
Daily 11am- 2am. Aahhh Jeeze- Who doesn't love a Midwestern Tavern? Pabst, Fried Cheese Curds, Old Style, Butter Burgers, Hamm's, Rueben's, Leinenkugle's, Beer Battered Walleye & more. Voted "Best Neighborhood Bar" 13 yrs., "Bang for your Buck" 8 yrs., & "Hang-out" 3 yrs. & "College Bar" 2 yrs. HH 4-7! Go Pack Go!

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25 W. Cimarron St.
(719) 475-8880
thewarehouserestaurant.com
Enjoy the experience of The Warehouse! The Colorado wines, spirits and microbrews we carry are a perfect match for the Progressive Colorado Cuisine presented by our talented staff. Pub noshes, salads, soups, sandwiches and burgers, domestic and game meats, pastas, vegetarian dishes, and alluring desserts.

BBQ

Buffalo Gals Grilling Co.
1701 A South 8th Street
719-635-0200
buffalogalsgrilling.com
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BISTRO

Ritz Grill
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635-8484
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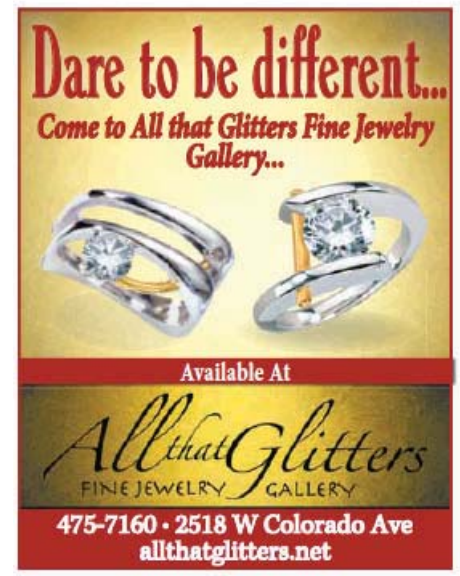

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(Las Vegas and Sierra Madre)
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CreativeCateringSolutions.com

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www.arharnthai.net

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medcafe-co.com

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Dine&Dash Quick takes on food and drink

Tacos Tenexpa

Mobile business, 291-0993

A tiny cart parked across from Bean Bandit on North Circle Drive, Tacos Tenexpa served Paso Robles, Calif., for three decades before moving to the Springs two years ago. It offers a classic lineup of street tacos and appears to specialize in *tacos al pastor*, based on signage and the glistening pork mound spinning on a vertical rotisserie spit inside the cart.

The ***lengua* and *cabeza* tacos** ($1.50 each) are textbook chewy and crispy, respectively, and well-seasoned and totally fine overall. But the ***pastor* burrito** ($6.50) is a massive beauty for the ages. The meat's lightly charred edges create a bacon-y crunch, and the pineapple-sweetened interior leads the flavor assault. Cilantro, onion, beans, a little mild cheese and not too much rice pack the rest of the thin, durable tortilla, itself a standout with a doughy aroma and almost a rice-paper texture. The scorchin' tomatillo salsa, unnecessary but delicious, bears a fresh cucumber essence. — ***Matthew Schniper***

Jade Dynasty Chinese Restaurant

106 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-9576, jadedynastymanitousprings.com

Now filling the space that for years held the restaurant known as China China, Jade Dynasty's a nice spot to get down with some Mandarin and Szechuan cuisine. Done up mostly in white with purple accents, the dining room's clean and bright, filled with the sound of cars passing by, water trickling into a corner fish tank, and pop music.

For dinner, we go with the **pu-pu platter** ($7.95) and a plate of **Volcano Shrimp** ($12.95). Though it arrives minus anything that looks like a "flaming pu pu tray," the platter is damn decent, sporting well-fried shrimp and wontons; a thin, but crispy, egg roll; a spare rib; a beef stick and "paper-wrapped chicken," a fun bit of ground meat and spices that lead with a licorice-like flavor. The shrimp are plump and steaming hot in a thin, tangy, brightly colored sauce; almost like an orange-chicken redux. Passable fried rice. — ***Bryce Crawford***

Paris Crepe

218 N. Tejon St., 444-0110

Soon to turn three, Paris Crepe survived 2010's crêpe craze (while a couple others folded — no pun intended) and continues to serve atypical, internationally inspired crêpes while catering to gluten-free needs. Example: the **Turkish crêpe** ($8.99), ordered with a GF garbanzo-flour base, consisting of juicy chicken hunks, soft potato wedges and sautéed spinach and onion beautifully seasoned with zatar (an herby, zesty Middle Eastern spice blend), hummus and strong garlic mayo. Though French-inspired by form, its conquering culinary qualities (nothing dainty here) are unquestionably Ottoman at heart.

A **Thai chicken salad** ($7.95) from the daily special board follows form, its big peanut flavors incorporated with fresh cilantro and sharp red onion slices and laid atop glistening, crisp romaine leaves. The keystone ingredient is a handful of sandy-ripe pear slivers, whose sweetness adds a fun counterbalance to the savory elements. Paris Crepe in a nutshell. — ***Matthew Schniper***

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Film

Shooting blanks

Gangster Squad (R)

By Tricia Olszewski

Bullets. Showers of bullets, point-blank bullets, target-practice bullets. When *Gangster Squad* was being edited around the time of July's Aurora theater shooting, director Ruben Fleischer (he of the tone-deaf 2011 comedy *30 Minutes or Less*) decided to excise a scene in his new film in which gunmen bust their way through a movie screen and attack the audience.

It's a shame to see a talented cast squandered on a film that can be largely summed up by its senseless barrage of bullets.

Now, around the one-month anniversary of the Sandy Hook school massacre, gun control, particularly access to assault weapons, is a hot topic again, and *Gangster Squad*'s audiences may still feel a bit squeamish.

This particular vein of violence may have been justifiable if it weren't, essentially, all there is to the film. *Gangster Squad*, adapted by freshman Will Beall from a book by Paul Lieberman, tells the story of 1940s L.A. mob don Mickey Cohen (Sean Penn). He's predominantly shown throwing tantrums and eating, though in an early scene he has a man torn in half while tied to two cars, a rare instance of non-pistol-aided violence.

The LAPD naturally wants to take Cohen down — or "wage guerilla warfare against Mr. Cohen," according to the chief (Nick Nolte) — a task that's relegated to Sgt. John O'Mara (Josh Brolin), a cop who (stop me if you've heard this one) doesn't always follow the rules.

O'Mara, with the help of his pregnant wife (requisite injection of sentiment!), assembles a team to assist him, including smooth-talking, lady-loving Jerry Wooters (Ryan Gosling), sharp-shooter Max Kennard (Robert Patrick), tech geek Conway Keeler (Giovanni Ribisi), Navidad Ramirez (Michael Peña), and Coleman Harris (Anthony Mackie), the latter two of whom seem to possess no particular special skill other than diversifying the crew. Before any of this happens, though, Wooters beds Cohen's girl, Grace (Emma Stone).

The squad stakes out Cohen and his henchmen. And then they shoot. And shoot and shoot and shoot. It's all terribly boring; the best you can do to keep yourself amused during the nearly two-hour runtime is admire the film's style, from the period-appropriate automobiles to the men in hats and tailored suits and Coke-bottle dames with body-hugging dresses and red lips.

Among the cast, there aren't really any standouts: Stone is gorgeous and perfectly come-hither, Gosling's his usual smarmy-charm self, Penn shows gravitas and is properly fearsome but really has little to do. The rest of the roles, it seems, could have been played by anyone, though Brolin is always a welcome presence.

There's a touch of moral questioning here, specifically regarding the squad's tactics versus Cohen's: As Keeler asks O'Mara, "Can you remind me of the difference between us and them?" But the throwaway line isn't enough to lend depth. Worse is a cherry-on-top last-chapter voiceover that attempts to make what preceded it sound like all sunshine and roses, some bullshit about protecting and serving, as images of happy couples appear onscreen.

It's not very gangster at all.

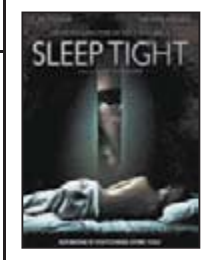
— scene@csindy.com

RatingsWrapUp

	Indy	Hollywood Reporter	Rotten Tomatoes	Variety
Django Unchained (R)	Brilliant	Brilliant	Brilliant	Brilliant
Gangster Squad (R)	Enjoy	Enjoy	Wait for DVD	Enjoy
Hyde Park on Hudson (R)	Wait for DVD	Brilliant	Wait for DVD	Wait for DVD
Les Miserables (PG-13)	Wait for DVD	Wait for DVD	Lame	Lame
Zero Dark Thirty (R)	Brilliant	Brilliant	Brilliant	Brilliant

KEY: Brilliant · Enjoy · Wait for DVD · Lame

CineFiles



Sleep Tight (NR)

Dark Sky Films

Spanish director Jaume Balaguero's follow-up to the found-footage trailblazers *[REC]* and *[REC]2* completely eschews the handheld camera effect for a tense, terrifying, Polanski-esque tale of obsession, perversion and general misanthropy. Apartment doorman Cesar seems like a genial fella on the outside, always with a cheerful word and a helping hand for the residents who take the time to say hello. But on the inside, he teems with hatred for their happy, smiling faces, and he sets out to destroy each of their lives in the most covert ways possible. He might give a dog diarrhea, kill some beloved plants or, in the case of the always-bright-side-looking Clara, poison her beauty products, create a cockroach infestation, or hide under her bed every night as she sleeps. *Sleep Tight* is a deliberate, unnerving and fascinating character study of a man who can't feel happiness. ***— Louis Fowler***

SEAL Team Six: The Raid on Osama bin Laden (NR) (Blu-ray)

Anchor Bay Entertainment

Zero Dark Thirty provides the government-approved account of what transpired on that fateful day when America's own SEAL Team Six put a round of hellfire into the most wanted terrorist in the world. Quietly released on home video, however, is the far more entertaining take on the events, *SEAL Team Six: The Raid on Osama bin Laden*. Originally aired on the National Geographic Channel, this independent account might not get all of the facts right, but it sure does get the heart beating as it takes us in-depth through the mission, with all of that Hollywood fat cut out. Directed with a rough-and-tumble flair by John Stockwell and starring a somewhat-big-name cast, including Anson (*Hell on Wheels*) Mount, Freddy (*Planet Terror*) Rodriguez and rapper Alvin "Xzibit" Jones, *SEAL Team Six* might go down as the "lesser" dramatization, the one that won't win the awards or make the Top 10 lists, but it will definitely have a better replay value over the years. ***— Louis Fowler***

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AudioFile

League of extraordinary women

Fort Collins-based sister act SHEL is poised to move full steam ahead

By Tom Lanham

CAPSULE

SHEL, with Rob Drabkin

Friday, Jan. 18, 8 p.m.

Bluebird Theater, 3317 E. Colfax Ave., Denver

Tickets: $12/adv, $15/door, 16-plus; bluebirdtheater.net, 303/377-1666.

SHEL is memorable for many reasons. First among them, perhaps, is the Fort Collins group's neo-vaudevillian sound. You can hear it on their recent self-titled debut, in ornate tracks like "Freckles" and a delicate cover of Led Zeppelin's "The Battle of Evermore."

Shel game: 'We have fans who come to our concerts wearing top hats like ours, so we actually sell our own line of hats now.'

Next is the unusual lineup — the four strikingly beautiful Holbrook sisters, whose first-name initials make up the moniker: Sarah (vocals, violin), Hannah (vocals, keyboards), Eva (lead vocals, mandolin), and Liza (drums, djembe).

And then, of course, there are those quasi-Victorian wardrobes. From any angle, SHEL is entirely unforgettable.

How did all this come about? In blissful solitude, basically. "We were all home-schooled, so we actually spent a lot of time at our house," says 23-year-old frontwoman Eva. "We lived 10 minutes north of Fort Collins, actually, out in the country, and I loved spending time on the farm. And it was a great place to grow up, because the music scene there is really fun — there's a lot of bluegrass and folk, and a lot of small places around town where you can go and hear music."

Adding to the equation was their father, a professional musician who encouraged his daughters to pick up whatever instrument intrigued them. Once they mastered them, they were asked to join his backing band — as little kids.

"So at concerts, he would invite us up onstage, one song at a time, and then if we were good enough, he'd invite us up for multiple songs," says Eva, who first joined dad's entourage at 10. "Then slowly, we all started learning how to sing — I didn't really learn how to sing until I was 15."

Their father didn't let his kids flounder as songwriters, either. He'd sit them down and teach them the nuts and bolts. "He was such a good influence in that respect," says Eva. "He'd say 'Take the Beatles — here's what made them such innovators.' And he'd talk about how they all had their own personalities, and he'd talk about the Marx Brothers and how hard *they* worked, just to become successful. We were always inspired by that, so we were constantly trying to push ourselves, to keep growing."

Eva reckons SHEL has been together for almost eight years. They all still live at home, and have even converted her bedroom into a recording studio she's dubbed the Blueberry Room. Dating? Don't even ask, Eva sighs. "We've done some, on and off, now and then. But it's pretty impossible right now."

SHEL's uniform sartorial sensibility stemmed from their shared love of Victoriana, explains Eva. They design, then handcraft most of their outfits themselves, all the way up to their ribbon-festooned velvet hats. Naturally, the sisters have been adopted by the steampunk community, even being invited to play some of the movement's conventions.

"I love steampunk," says Eva. "But now a lot of people recognize us at festivals just because of how we dress. So we'll play and then get offstage and be walking through the festivals, and people always walk up and say hello. And we even have fans who come to our concerts wearing top hats like ours. So we actually sell our own line of hats now."

Meanwhile, the parental involvement has continued on. "But over time, it came full circle," says Eva. "Now he backs *us* up on bass, and we write all our own music."

— scene@csindy.com

PlayingAround

LIVE MUSIC: WEDNESDAY, JAN. 16, THROUGH TUESDAY, JAN. 22

Wednesday 1/16

Club Q, *Open Mic Night,* 10 p.m.
Frankie's, *Open Mic (acoustic),* 8:30 p.m.
Front Range, *Tom Skora + The Sharrows (rock/pop),* 7:30 p.m.
Margarita at PineCreek, *Crystal and the Curious (jazz),* 7 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *Brian Parton (Americana),* 7 p.m.
MoodSwings, *Open Mic Night (acoustic),* 8 p.m., $5, free for jammers.
Park East, *The Martini Shot Unplugged (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz),* 6:30 p.m.
Stargazers, *Chuck Pyle's An Evening at the Star (country),* 7 p.m., $10.
Zodiac, *'80s Dance Nite, hosted by DJ Monster Mike (dance),* 9 p.m.

Thursday 1/17

Adam's, *Jim Enquist (acoustic),* 6:30 p.m.
Ancient Mariner, *Open Mic with Stolen Idol Productions (acoustic),* 8:30 p.m.
Benny's, *Open Mic with the Jerry Roskin Band,* 9 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, *Brian Clancy (world),* 7:30 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *Quiet Storm (R&B),* 8 p.m., *DJ Tony G (dance),* 9 p.m.
Motif, *Mike Nelson Band (blues),* 7:15 p.m.
Park East, *Sarah Wood & Theo DeCenzo (acoustic),* 7-10 p.m.
Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz),* 6:30 p.m.
Rico's, *Susan Rissman and Tribe (jazz),* 7 p.m.
Ritz, *DJ Ron Perry (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.

Friday 1/18

Adam's, *Jim Enquist (acoustic),* 9 a.m.
Ancient Mariner, *Granny Tweed (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Benny's, *Mighty King Snakes (blues),* 9 p.m.
Black Sheep, *Reverend Horton Heat, Reno Divorce (rock/pop),* 8 p.m., $17.50-$22.
Broadmoor Academy of Music, *Friday Jazz Jam Session (jazz),* 7 p.m.
Cleats, *Inman Brothers (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Cucuru, *The Flipsides (jazz),* 7 p.m.
Fujiyama, *Barbara Ernst/Mistura Bela (world),* 7 p.m.
The Grove Tavern, *Cari Dell Trio (blues),* 9 p.m.
Johnny's Navajo Hogan, *Austin Young and No Difference (blues),* 8 p.m.
Kasey's, *Friday Nights with DJ Panther (R&B),* 9 p.m.
Kinfolks, *Mike Nelson (blues),* 8 p.m.
The Loft, *J. Miller: The Rooftop Collection Live Recording (Americana),* 7:30 p.m., $7.
Meadow Muffins, *DJ Mortekai (dance),* 9 p.m., *WestSide Rhythm Kings (R&B),* 9 p.m.
MoodSwings, *Alex Achondo (acoustic),* 8 p.m., $5-$10.
Motif, *Gentle Rain, with Marcie Hureau (jazz),* 7:45 p.m.
Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz),* 6:30 p.m.
Rawkus, *Ishe & RumbleJunkie, GHoST (dance),* 8 p.m.
Rico's, *Ben Pratt (acoustic),* 7:30 p.m.
Ritz, *DJ Party Marty (dance),* 9 p.m.
Sonterra, *John Stone (acoustic),* 7 p.m.

VENUE DIRECTORY

Adam's Mountain Café, 934 Manitou Ave., #102, Manitou Springs, 685-1430
Ancient Mariner, 962 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-5503
Benny's Restaurant & Lounge, 517 W. Colorado Ave., 634-9309
Black Sheep, 2106 E. Platte Ave., 227-7625
Broadmoor Academy of Music, 1223 Lake Plaza Drive, Suite C, 576-3979
Carey-On Saloon, 6829 Space Village Ave., 591-0300
Cleats Sports Bar & Grill, 6624 Delmonico Drive, 548-8267
Club Q, 3430 N. Academy Blvd., 570-1429
Crystola Roadhouse, 20918 U.S. Hwy. 24, Woodland Park, 687-7879
Cucuru Gallery Café, 2332 W. Colorado Ave., 520-9900
Frankie's Bar & Grill, 945 N. Powers Blvd., 574-4881
Front Range Barbeque, 2330 W. Colorado Ave., 632-2596
Fujiyama, 22 S. Tejon St., Suite A, 630-1167
The Grove Tavern, 901 E. C St., Pueblo, 719/544-4815
Jack Quinn Irish Alehouse & Pub, 21 S. Tejon St., 385-0766
Johnny's Navajo Hogan, 2817 N. Nevada Ave., 344-9593
Kasey's Bar & Grill, 1919 E. Boulder St., 635-8128
Kinfolks Mountain Shop, 950 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-4433
The Loft, 2506 W. Colorado Ave., 445-9278
Lounge In the Village, 3440 W. Carefree Circle, 550-9721

Got a live music event readers should know about? Send us the band/musician, where they're playing and when (day, date and time), how much it will cost and a contact phone number — by Wednesday

BigGigs

Paula Nelson, daughter of Willie, plays the Crystola Roadhouse Jan. 21.

Blackalicious, Marquis Theater, Denver, Jan. 18 • **Reverend Horton Heat**, Black Sheep, Jan. 18 • **SHEL**, Bluebird Theater, Denver, Jan. 18 • **Blackberry Smoke**, Summit Music Hall, Denver, Jan. 19 • **Calexico**, Bluebird Theater, Denver, Jan. 19 • **Wendy Woo & Nina Storey**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Jan. 19 • **Omar Offendum**, CC's Armstrong Hall, Jan. 21 • **Paula Nelson**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, Jan. 21 • **The Walkmen**, Ogden Theatre, Denver, Jan. 21 • **Bloc Party**, Ogden Theatre, Denver, Jan. 22 • **Ben Folds Five**, Ogden Theatre, Denver, Jan. 23 • **Tribal Seeds**, Black Sheep, Jan. 23 • **Sea Wolf**, Black Sheep, Jan. 24 • **Cute Is What We Aim For**, Black Sheep, Jan. 25 • **Raindance**, Seventh Circle Music Collective, Denver, Jan. 25 • **Nonpoint**, Black Sheep, Jan. 26 • **Suzy Bogguss**, Damon Runyon Repertory Theatre, Pueblo, Jan. 26 • **Switchback**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Jan. 26 • **MartyParty**, Black Sheep, Jan. 27 • **The Toasters**, Black Sheep, Jan. 28 • **Delta Rae**, Bluebird Theater, Denver, Jan. 29 • **The Overseer**, Black Sheep, Jan. 30 • **Styx**, Paramount Theatre, Denver, Jan. 30 • **Iration**, Black Sheep, Jan. 31 • **The Darkness**, Summit Music Hall, Denver, Feb. 1 • **Ellie Goulding**, Ogden Theatre, Denver, Feb. 1 • **Pennywise**, Black Sheep, Feb. 1 • **RJD2**, Bluebird Theater, Denver, Feb. 1 • ***Winter on the Rocks*, with Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, Major Lazer**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, Feb. 1 • **Kraddy**, Black Sheep, Feb. 2 • **Agent Orange**, Phil's Radiator, Pueblo, Feb. 3 • **Hatebreed**, Black Sheep, Feb. 5 • **The Growlers**, Black Sheep, Feb. 7 • **Ken Stringfellow**, Moe's Original Bar B Que, Englewood, Feb. 7 • **Fred Hersch**, Dazzle Restaurant and Lounge, Denver, Feb. 7-8 • **Royal Southern Brotherhood**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, Feb. 8 • **Victor Wooten**, Cervantes' Masterpiece Ballroom, Denver, Feb. 9 • **El Ten Eleven**, Black Sheep, Feb. 10 • **The Who**, Pepsi Center, Denver, Feb. 12 • **OM**, Larimer Lounge, Denver, Feb. 13 • **Carrie Underwood**, World Arena, Feb. 13 • **Marcia Ball**, Daniels Hall at Swallow Hill, Denver, Feb. 15 • **Michael Johnson**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Feb. 17 • **James McMurtry**, The Loft, Feb. 17 • **Stone Sour, Papa Roach**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Feb. 17 • **Morrissey**, Buell Theatre, Denver, Feb. 21 • ***Rock & Worship Roadshow*, with MercyMe, Jeremy Camp, Tedashii**, World Arena, Feb. 21 • **Savoy**, Boulder Theater, Boulder, Feb. 23 • **Toro y Moi**, Bluebird Theater, Denver, Feb. 23 • **Passion Pit**, 1STBANK Center, Broomfield, March 1 • **PANTyRAID**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, March 2 • **Adrian Legg**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, March 10 • **Altan**, Daniels Hall at Swallow Hill, Denver, March 16 • **Vagabond Opera**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, March 16 • **Tech N9ne**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, March 22 • **Imagine Dragons**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, March 23 • **Bob Seger & The Silver Bullet Band**, Pepsi Center, Denver, April 2 • **Alt-J**, Bluebird Theater, Denver, April 3 • **The Doobie Brothers**, Pikes Peak Center, April 10 • **Peter Yarrow**, Daniels Hall at Swallow Hill, Denver, April 13 • **Fleetwood Mac**, Pepsi Center, Denver, June 1 • **Taylor Swift**, Pepsi Center, Denver, June 2 •

Reverb is on hiatus this week. Look for the column's return in the Jan. 23 issue.

Stargazers, *Whiskey Fingers (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.
Townhouse, *Arch Hooks (R&B),* 9 p.m.
V Bar, *DJ Gravity (dance),* 9 p.m.
Zodiac, *Chauncy Crandall and special guests (rock/pop),* 9 p.m., $5.

Saturday 1/19

Ancient Mariner, *Chords for Connor (rock/pop),* 7 p.m.
Benny's, *The Boogiemen (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Black Sheep, *Tree of Woe, Aberrant, Blighter, Dripfed, Rhogog (metal),* 7:30 p.m., $5.
Carey-On Saloon, *Exit West (country),* 8 p.m.
Cleats, *DJ Ron Perry (dance),* 9 p.m.
Crystola Roadhouse, *Suga' Bear & The Show Time Band (R&B),* 8 p.m.
Cucuru, *Rico (jazz),* 7:30 p.m.
Fujiyama, *DJ Ron Perry (jazz),* 6 p.m.
Grove Tavern, *Cari Dell Trio (blues),* 9 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, *Keep Britain Irish (folk),* 9:30 p.m.
Lounge In the Village, *West Side Rhythm Kings (blues),* 8 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *DJ Tony G (dance),* 9 p.m., *Classic XL Rock (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
MoodSwings, *Lindsay and Jeremy (acoustic),* 8 p.m., $5-$10.
Motif, *Alan Joseph and Wayne Wilkinson (jazz),* 7:45 p.m.
Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz),* -6:30-10:30 p.m.
Rawkus, *October Rage (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Rico's, *New Vintage Jazz (jazz),* 7:30 p.m.
Ritz, *Underground Dance Theory (dance),* 9 p.m.
Sonterra, *John Stone (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Stargazers, *Wendy Woo and Nina Storey (rock/pop),* 8 p.m., $15-$20.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.
Townhouse, *Rock Garden (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Triple Nickel Tavern, *The Raven and the Writing Desk (indie),* 9 p.m.
V Bar, *DJ Gravity (dance),* 9 p.m.

Sunday 1/20

Jack Quinn's, *Traditional Irish Session (world),* 3 p.m.
Retired Enlisted Association, *Blues Jam with the Tracy Quinn Band (rock/pop),* 3 p.m.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.
Tony's, *Sunday Shenanigans, with NateStarr and TaylorLee (dance),* 9:30 p.m.
Urban Steam, *Acoustic Open Mic (acoustic),* 1 p.m.
Zodiac, *Soul Sessions IV, hosted by Andrew Wilson (R&B),* 8 p.m.

Monday 1/21

Crystola Roadhouse, *Paula Nelson (Americana),* 6 p.m.
Zodiac, *Open Mic hosted by Andrea Stone,* 7 p.m.

Tuesday 1/22

Adam's, *Wayne Hammerstadt (acoustic),* 6:30 p.m.
Townhouse, *Open Mic (acoustic),* 9 p.m.
Zodiac, *Goth Nite with DJ Johnny Coffin (dance),* 9 p.m.

Margarita at PineCreek, 7350 Pine Creek Road, 598-8667
Meadow Muffins, 2432 W. Colorado Ave., 633-0583
MoodSwings Acoustic Lounge, 696 N. Circle Drive, 201-2592
Motif, 2432 Cucharras St., 635-5635
Park East Restaurant, 720 Goodnight Ave., Pueblo, 719/565-6655
Penrose Room at The Broadmoor, 1 Lake Ave., 577-5773
Rawkus, 3506 N. Academy Blvd., 596-0000
Retired Enlisted Association, 834 Emory Circle, 596-0927
Rico's Café and Wine Bar, 322½ N. Tejon St., 578-5549
Ritz Grill, 15 S. Tejon St., 635-8484
The Sky Box Lounge, 2102 E. Bijou St., 634-4815
Sonterra Innovative Southwest Grill, 28B S. Tejon St., 471-9222
Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Drive, 476-2200
Tavern at The Broadmoor, 1 Lake Ave., 577-5772
Tony's Bar, 311 N. Tejon St., 228-6566
Townhouse Lounge, 907 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1085
Triple Nickel Tavern, 26 S. Wahsatch Ave., 477-9555
Urban Steam Coffee Bar, 1025 S. Sierra Madre St., 473-7832
V Bar, 19 E. Kiowa St., 635-9599
Zodiac, 230 Pueblo Ave., 632-5059

at noon for the following week's paper. If we don't receive confirmation of ongoing events on a monthly basis, they won't run. Send to: livemusic@csindy.com.

SoundAdvice

The Joy Formidable
Wolf's Law
Canvasback (Release date: Jan. 22)

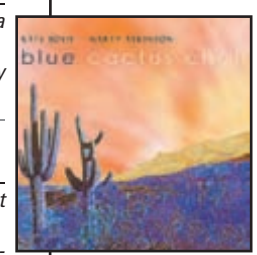
File next to: Muse, Silversun Pickups

With *Wolf's Law*, the Joy Formidable are already poised to finish 2013 on a number of writers' Top 10 lists. The album's epic rock sound melds seamlessly with gorgeous melodies, swelling choruses, singer Ritzy Bryan's both pixie-ish and ethereal vocals, and all the dramatic sweep and scope of a concept album that, for once, doesn't miss its mark. The driving rhythms and catchy chords on "The Ladder Is Ours" and the orchestration-heavy finale "The Turnaround" stand out as worthy bookmarks to this record, making fitting examples of the album's overall energy and diversity. The crunchy, distorted riffs and chugging drums on "Cholla" marry surprisingly well with thoughtful lyrics. Bryan's multifaceted presence (she whispers, shouts, croons and offers echoing vocals in equal measure throughout) makes these tracks transcend ordinary modern rock fare. *Wolf's Law* is a rocking good time. — ***Brian Palmer***

Various Artists
Not Fade Away (Music From the Motion Picture)
ABKCO Records

File next to: *American Graffiti* and *Cadillac Records* soundtracks

David Chase's film about a '60s rock 'n roll band is all about the music — a fitting assemblage of '60s songs put together by Little Steven Van Zandt that set the tone and feel of the picture. Van Zandt's curation means the soundtrack is a very cool affair, including songs from James Brown, the Rolling Stones, Elmore James, Bob Dylan and perfectly placed numbers like the Small Faces' "Itchycoo Park," the Left Banke's "Pretty Ballerina," and Lee Hazlewood and Nancy Sinatra's "Some Velvet Morning." But Van Zandt also assembled the group that provided the sounds of the Twylight Zones, the movie's band. Its members included guitarist Van Zandt, and E Street Band veterans Garry Tallent and Max Weinberg, who cover "Subterranean Homesick Blues" (slightly psychedelicized) and — the real gem of the set — Van Zandt's own "The St. Valentine's Day Massacre," whose Byrdsy rock 'n roll nicely conveys the mood of the era. — ***L. Kent Wolgamott***



Blue Cactus Choir
... Once in a Bluegrass Moon
Porgy Records

File next to: America, Gordon Lightfoot

The title of this album may mention bluegrass, but there's much more going on with this collective fronted by singer/guitarists Marty Atkinson and Katy Boyd. In fact, you'll be hard pressed to find a single true bluegrass song among the album's 21 tracks, which might be more accurately described as acoustic roots music. "Blue Moon Over Mexico" has a poppy vocal melody to match its acoustic guitar and banjo arrangement. "A Cat Called Ginger and a Dog Called Fred Astaire" has a nice loping tempo, while the spare acoustic ballad "Southern Bird" nods to early Eagles in its harmonies and overall sound. A folkier feel emerges in songs like "Lucy Lu" and "Blind Date at Juanito's." Clocking in at nearly 90 minutes, the songs on *... Once In a Bluegrass Moon* eventually tend to blend together, but fans of stripped-back country-pop should still find plenty to like here. — ***Alan Sculley***

VOTED BEST VENUE IN THE SPRINGS!
THE BLACK SHEEP
2106 E. PLATTE AVE, CO SPRINGS
ON SALE THIS WEEK!
LISTENER - FEB 9 (ON SALE NOW)
MONOPHONICS - FEB 14 (ON SALE NOW)
DARK TIME SUNSHINE - FEB 27 (ON SALE NOW)
AVATAR - MAR 2 (ON SALE NOW)
MINUS THE BEAR - APR 2 (ON SALE FRI)
Fri, Jan. 18th - 8:00pm
PRESENTED BY KILO 94.3
REVEREND HORTON HEAT
RENO DIVORCE
Sat, Jan. 19th - 7:30pm
5 BANDS FOR 5 BUCKS!
TREE OF WOE
ABERRANT, BLIGHTER, DRIPFED, RHOGOG
Wed, Jan. 23rd - 7:00pm
TRIBAL SEEDS
STICK FIGURE, THE MAAD T-RAY, OFFBEAT REVOLUTION
Thu, Jan. 24th - 8:00pm
KRCC PRESENTS
SEA WOLF
THE DONNIES THE AMYS, WE ARE NOT A GLUM LOT,
Fri, Jan. 25th - 7:00pm
PRESENTED BY 103.9 RXP
CUTE IS WHAT WE AIM FOR
WHY THEY FIGHT, SAVING VERONA
Sat, Jan. 26th - 7:00pm
NONPOINT
CANDLELIGHT RED, DIGITAL SUMMER
Sun, Jan. 27th - 8:00pm
MARTY PARTY
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
Mon, Jan. 28th - 7:00pm
PRESENTED BY 103.9 RXP
THE TOASTERS
MRS. SKANNOTTO, THE STEM BEACH SOUL REVIVAL
Wed, Jan. 30th - 7:00pm
THE OVERSEER
FIT FOR A KING, FORSAKE IT ALL, ALL PROMISES ASIDE
Thu, Jan. 31st - 7:00pm
PRESENTED BY 103.9 RXP
IRATION
PASSAFIRE, PACIFIC DUB
Fri, Feb. 1st - 7:00pm
PRESENTED BY 103.9 RXP & FORTHELOVEOFPUNK.COM
PENNYWISE
DISGUISE THE SPY, PITCH INVASION
Sat, Feb. 2nd - 8:00pm
KRADDY
ANA SIA
UPCOMING EVENTS
FEB 5 - HATEBREED
FEB 7 - THE GROWLERS
FEB 8 - CHARLIE MILO TRIO
FEB 9 - LISTENER
FEB 10 - EL TEN ELEVEN
FEB 13 - THE ROUGE
FEB 14 - MONOPHONICS
FEB 15 - MOD SUN
FEB 16 - TWENTY ONE PILOTS
FEB 17 - THE STEEPWATER BAND
FEB 19 - GOLD FIELDS
FEB 21 - 10 YEARS
FEB 22 - BALLYHOO!
FEB 24 - NATTY VIBES
FEB 25 - TREMONTI
FEB 27 - DARK TIME SUNSHINE
MAR 2 - AVATAR
MAR 5 - SUMERIAN RECORDS BATTLE OF THE BANDS
MAR 8 - CURRENT SWELL
MAR 9 - THE DIRTY HEADS, SHINY TOY GUNS
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Door times listed. Advance tickets available on show nights, by phone at 1-866-468-7621 or buy online at:
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Audio

Arab springboard

Omar Offendum explores the politics of identity and insurrection

By Bill Forman

What a difference a decade makes, particularly if you're a Syrian-American hip-hop artist. Omar Offendum was a college student when he began rapping in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 tragedy — an event that redefined him, in the eyes of many, as "the other."

Laith Majali

Offendum has generated media buzz since the '#Jan25' single went viral.

"I ended up using hip-hop to bridge the two seemingly opposite sides of my identity," says the emcee, whose group N.O.M.A.D.S. (an acronym for Notoriously Offensive Male Arabs Discussing Shit) wasn't necessarily in sync with prevailing post-9/11 sentiments.

That was then, but this is now. Following the Arab Spring uprisings, people previously profiled as potential terrorists were suddenly recontextualized as valiant freedom fighters.

'There's this newfound romanticizing of the Middle East.'

All of which helps explain the viral success of "#Jan25," on which Offendum is a featured rapper. The song and video — which pay homage to the Egyptian revolution as well as to the Twitter hashtags used by people who either participated in or followed it — landed Offendum interviews with PBS, Al Jazeera, and *Rolling Stone*, as well as invitations to speak and perform at Colorado College on Martin Luther King Day and at the Nobel Peace Prize Forum this coming March.

But while perceptions may change, Offendum has, in essence, remained the same person.

"It can all shift depending on what side of America's foreign policy that 'other' ends up being," says the rapper, who continues to earn his living as an architectural designer. "But like you said, we're always the same people. And yeah, now there's this newfound romanticizing of the Middle East — which is interesting because, in certain places, America played a direct role in facilitating those dictatorships, or at least prolonging them.

"So I try to remind people both here *and* in the Middle East that beneath all the political posturing, all the proxy wars, and all the conspiracy theories, there's a very real suffering."

In addition to raising funds for charitable organizations, Offendum avoids getting dragged into debates over stereotypes. "I decided to pull away from the framework of that whole argument, and stop telling people what it is we're *not* — that we're not terrorists, we're not extremists, we're not this or that. Instead I tell people what it is that we are, and why we're so proud of our culture, our heritage and our background."

Paid in full

Growing up in Washington, D.C., Offendum spent his days learning Arabic history and language at a Muslim school. At the same time, he also became cognizant of hip-hop, developing a love for emcees like Chuck D, Mos Def and Talib Kweli.

Unlike his older sisters, the future rapper had few memories of the Middle East, his parents having moved to the U.S. when he was just 3. His father, a civil engineer, had previously moved the family from his native Syria to Saudi Arabia because of the political climate.

"Like thousands of men from the city of Hamah, they saw opportunity there, and a way to escape what ended up becoming one of the worst political and humanitarian situations of the early '80s. It didn't get much international attention, unfortunately — there was no YouTube or camera-phones back then to film what happened — but tens of thousands of lives were lost in the span of a week, and a big section of the old city was razed, flattened to the ground."

At the University of Virginia, Offendum dabbled in creating hip-hop beats from samples of old Arabic albums he grew up hearing at home. He gets excited when I mention how the first Middle Eastern sample I ever heard on a hip-hop record was Yemeni singer Ofra Haza on Eric B. & Rakim's "Paid in Full."

"That's actually one of a handful of CDs I keep on my desk for inspiration," he says of the 1988 hip-hop classic. "I actually was worried you were gonna say it was 'Big Pimpin'.'"

Tweeting the revolution

While Offendum's 2010 *SyrianmericanA* made only a ripple in pop culture, the next album should get more attention. It's being produced by Sami Matar, who's worked with Snoop Dogg and Black Eyed Peas, and also produced "#Jan25" and Offendum's recent followup, "#Syria."

"Given how much people have taken to those two songs," he says, "I have a feeling people will really enjoy this album."

Meanwhile, Offendum is looking forward to the Colorado Springs event honoring King, whom he quotes in his portion of "#Jan25."

The track also references Gil-Scott Heron's 1970 anthem "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised": "I heard 'em say the revolution won't be televised," raps Offendum. "Al Jazeera proved 'em wrong, Twitter has 'em paralyzed."

"I was not trying to discredit or deny the point that Gil-Scott Heron was making," Offendum clarifies. "I mean, that would be really stupid. But at the same time, there *was* at the very outset of the Egyptian revolution a newfound sense of access to information that government was trying to shut people off from. And that's still happening in Syria."

Of course, there's much more to it than that.

"If you think your activist urges are satisfied by just posting a Facebook status or a tweet here and there," says the rapper, "you've gotta humble yourself and remember there are people in charitable organizations on the front lines of really, really horrific humanitarian crises — people who do thankless work and don't expect to get a Facebook 'Like' or a retweet."

— bill@csindy.com

CAPSULE

Omar Offendum

Monday, Jan. 21, 11:15 a.m.

CC's Armstrong Hall, 14 E. Cache la Poudre St.

Free; coloradocollege.edu, 389-6000.

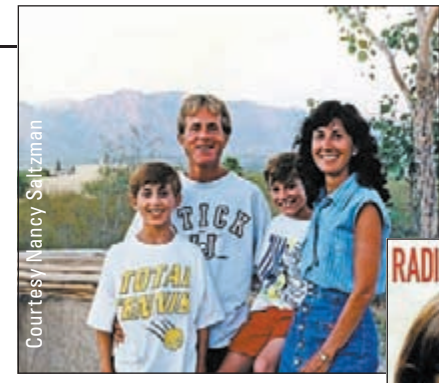
Streamed live: coloradocollege.edu/live.

FinePrint

Radical inspiration

Local author Nancy Saltzman weaves loss and love into a moving memoir

By Bret Wright



The Saltzmans in 1995, from left: Adam, Joel, Seth, Nancy.

'Better. Worse. Better. Worse ..." That's how Nancy Saltzman describes the process of emotional healing. "When you feel the worst you've ever felt, and you start to feel better, it's not a straight-line progression."

Saltzman knows all about healing. After surviving two bouts of cancer, one in 1990 and another in 1992, the Colorado Springs resident found her ability to withstand trauma further tested when her husband and two sons died in 1995.

What had happened was a tragic end to an otherwise delightful family vacation. Joel Herzog, Saltzman's husband and owner of Total Tennis on Bijou Street, had taken their two boys, Adam and Seth, to watch some professional tennis matches in Las Vegas. A friend had rented a small plane to get them there. There wasn't enough room for Saltzman, but it was Seth's 11th birthday, and she had wanted to be there, too.

So she had taken a commercial flight out to Vegas, and back again. Late that September evening, she got the phone call that every parent or spouse dreads. It was the Custer County sheriff. The private aircraft had gone down in a storm coming home. There were no survivors on the plane.

There was just one in Colorado Springs.

Teaching point

At the time of the accident, Saltzman was principal of Broadmoor Elementary School. Seth had been a student there, and everyone knew Joel and Adam as well. Though she was obviously devastated, she thought it was important for her students to see how adults handle loss and grief. She returned to work a week after the accident.

"Some of them wanted to know about how it happened, what it was like for the boys," she says. "That was hard. But those are the things kids want to know. I have had former students write to me just to say thank you. 'Thank you for showing me how to get through it.'

"You can be sad," she says, "but you still have to get up and go." And that's exactly what Saltzman tried to show her kids at school.

Many would say that what she did for her students was extraordinary, but she says, "I don't think I'm an extraordinary person. I think I'm a pretty ordinary person."

People were interested in what she had to say, though. In fact, they started asking Saltzman to speak about her experiences.

"It took a couple of years to be able to do that," she confesses. But she soon found that people took inspiration from what she had to say about surviving.

In 2006 Saltzman retired from education and began writing a memoir. Now, 18 years after the accident, and after losing her sister to cancer and her mother to Alzheimer's disease, her story can be found in the September 2012 release, *Radical Survivor.*

Gaining perspective

The book details the events of the years, but is much more than a timeline. "I talk about perspective, and what helped me," Saltzman says.

She received some assistance with that early on. "I remember I walked into my therapist's office and said, 'How long is this going to feel this bad? Because this doesn't feel good, and I don't want to feel this bad.'"

According to Saltzman, he told her that people can't maintain a high level of grief for too long. Unless they have clinical depression, which is a different thing entirely, people tend to start feeling better in three to four months despite the pain.

"I liked having fun," Saltzman says. "I liked feeling good. I liked knowing I could make a difference. But to do all those things, you have to get feeling better. I mean, I was in love ... I loved my husband — he was an amazing person — and our kids were wonderful. I knew what it was like to be happy and have a wonderful family, and I hoped to have something like that again."

When she wrote *Radical Survivor,* Saltzman didn't really think about people's response to it, but she soon started getting letters and e-mails. Someone wrote to her and said that they'd had depression their entire life, and her book made them look around and realize what they had.

"Maybe that'll last a day, maybe that'll last a week, maybe that'll last forever, but how incredible is that?" she asks. "That something horrible that happened to me can make a difference for somebody else? ...

"I guess I've always looked on the bright side," Saltzman says. "I mean, I complain like everybody else, but I've pretty much always appreciated my life, and if my life can help other people appreciate their lives, that's very cool."

— scene@csindy.com

CAPSULE

Book signing with Nancy Saltzman

Saturday, Jan. 20, 3-5 p.m.

Poor Richard's Bookstore, 320 N. Tejon St.

Free. For additional upcoming book signings and discussions with Saltzman, visit nancysaltzman.com.

CAPSULE

Radical Survivor

Dr. Nancy Saltzman

WoWo Press, $14.95/ paperback

ShortStories

Daddy Love
Joyce Carol Oates
Mysterious Press, $24/hardcover

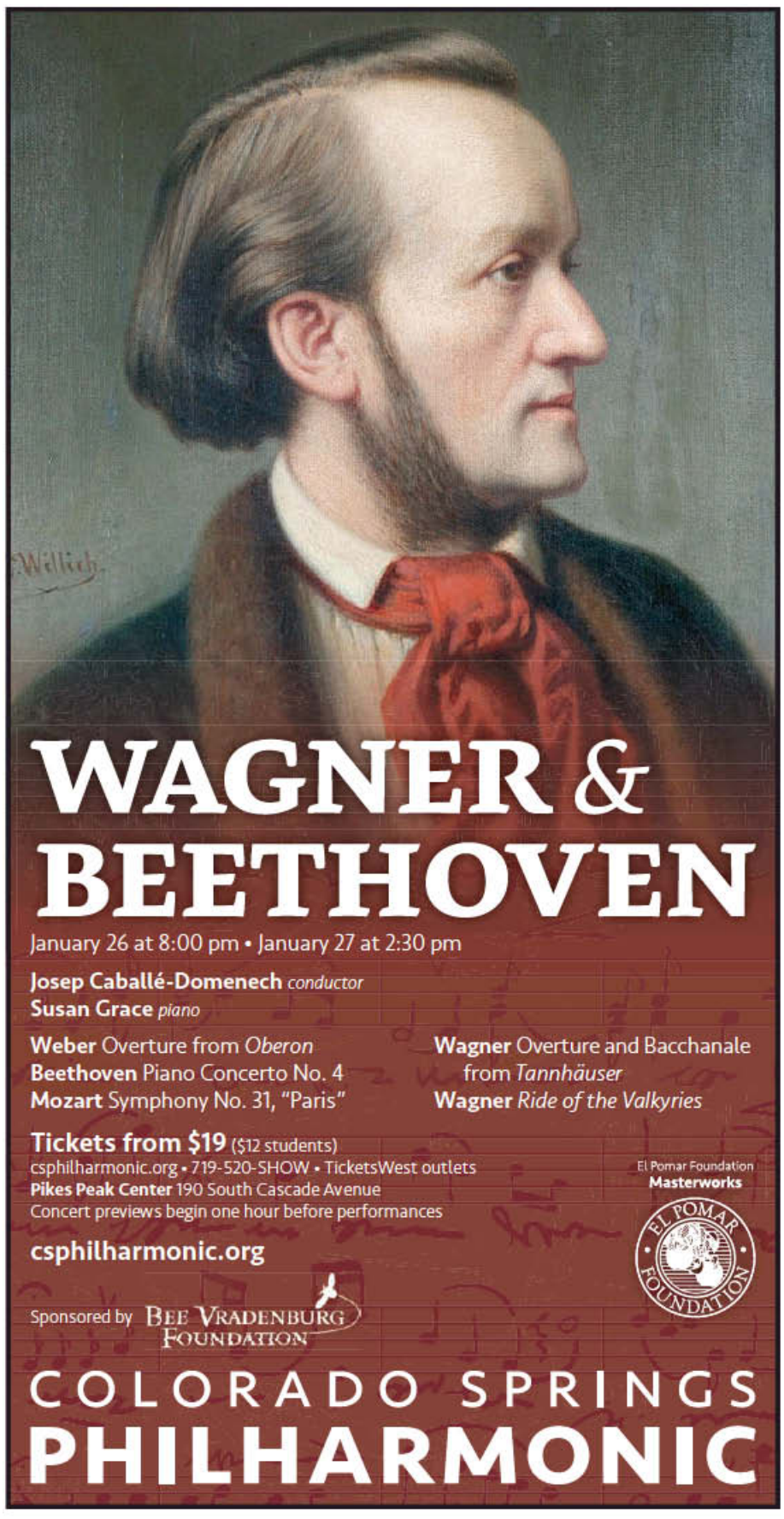
The ever-prolific Joyce Carol Oates hits a nerve with *Daddy Love*, a dark and gritty novel about survival. In some ways evocative of Emma Donoghue's *Room*, this is a tale of abduction: Robbie, a smart 5-year-old with a nervous temperament, is abducted from a shopping mall parking lot; his mother, Dinah, is seriously injured when the kidnapper drives over her with his getaway van. Oates uses several perspectives — those of the violent, perverted kidnapper Chester Cash who works as a street preacher called "Daddy Love," Robbie and Dinah — to tell the story of the next six years. This book is not for the sensitive reader, but *Daddy Love* does map out a certain kind of resilience, especially once Robbie comes to realize that he's not the first of Daddy Love's "sons," and that they all seem to disappear not long after they reach his age. ***— Kel Munger***

What's Wrong With Fat?
Abigail C. Saguy
Oxford University Press, $29.95/hardcover

This intelligent analysis of the way our culture views and responds to its own bodies is nothing short of groundbreaking. Abigail C. Saguy, a sociology professor at University of California, Los Angeles, looks at how we talk about fat/obesity/overweight in terms of frames — those familiar tools of organizing language and ideas that have remade U.S. political discourse. In *What's Wrong With Fat?* Saguy challenges several frames for our understanding of weight: those that treat "overweight" as a problem to be addressed; those that attempt to assign blame for it, whether on industrial agriculture and food production or on lack of self-control; and those that concentrate on attractiveness, an already culturally bound perspective. Saguy is not simply critical of these frames; she brings an uncommon amount of intellectual and common sense to a discussion that is fraught with emotion. ***— Kel Munger***

The Uninvited
Liz Jensen
Bloomsbury USA, $25/hardcover

This unsettling mystery-thriller has elements of horror as well — not to mention enough apocalyptic overtones to bring on a sleepless night or two. The protagonist of Liz Jensen's *The Uninvited* is Hesketh Lock, a brilliant fellow with Asperger's syndrome who works as a claims investigator for a British firm. He can't help but look for patterns, and as a lifelong student of human behavior, he has plenty of observations to rely on when he detects something abnormal about some recent, exceptionally bloody violence from very young children. But he's off to Taiwan to look into a case in the country's lumber industry — and what do you know, he finds that some children there are also engaging in suddenly violent acts. Part mystery and part ghost story with a double twist, *The Uninvited* might make you keep your distance from the playground. ***— Kel Munger***


WAGNER &
BEETHOVEN
January 26 at 8:00 pm • January 27 at 2:30 pm
Josep Caballé-Domenech conductor
Susan Grace piano
Weber Overture from Oberon
Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4
Mozart Symphony No. 31, "Paris"
Wagner Overture and Bacchanale from Tannhäuser
Wagner Ride of the Valkyries
Tickets from $19 ($12 students)
csphilharmonic.org • 719-520-SHOW • TicketsWest outlets
Pikes Peak Center 190 South Cascade Avenue
Concert previews begin one hour before performances
csphilharmonic.org
El Pomar Foundation
Masterworks
Sponsored by Bee Vradenburg Foundation
COLORADO SPRINGS
PHILHARMONIC

Listings

PICK Indicates our recommendations for this week.

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PIKES PEAK REGION

PICK **Thubten Shedrup Ling,** an evening of teaching, meditation, "contemplative examination" and more. Sat., Jan. 19, 7 p.m. Free. CC's Shove Memorial Chapel, 1010 N. Nevada Ave., 447-9880, coloradocollege.edu.

ArtEvents

"ARTshop," a workshop series designed to strengthen the creative industries in Pueblo. The first topic is "Legal Issues 101 for the Creative Industry." Tues., Jan 22, 1:30 p.m. $5. Rawlings Library, 100 Abriendo Ave., Pueblo, pueblopag.org.

Fab Lab, weekly sessions to fix items or create new things with Concrete Couch. Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org.

Third Place — Heart Gallery of America, a chance to see works from this collaborative project in an open studio setting, with appearances during receptions on the first and third Fridays between 5-8 p.m. Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., Pueblo, 719/295-7200, sdc-arts.org.

Wine and Art Saturdays, a weekly event for appreciation of creative endeavors, both high-culture and viticulture. Saturdays, 4-6 p.m. Hayden Hays Broadmoor Galleries, 1 Lake Circle, 577-5744, haydenhaysgallery.com.

Woodland Park Art Walk, an evening of art receptions, demonstrations and other activities at a dozen Woodland Park art galleries, including the Seven Arrows Gallery and the Woodland Park Arts Alliance. Third Friday of every month, 4-7 p.m. 302-2282, woodlandparkarts.com.

ArtExhibits

Academy Frame Company, 7620 N. Academy Blvd., 265-6694, academyframeco.com. *Ranches, Barns and Homesteads*, an exhibition of photography and paintings. Opening reception, Fri., Jan. 18, 4 p.m.

The Bridge Gallery, 218 W. Colorado Ave., thebridgeartgallery.com. *Congregation of the Unknown*, a collection of "illustrated sculpture" by Cole Bennett and Deena Bennett. Also held in the Commons Gallery. Through Jan. 31.

CC's Coburn Gallery, Worner Campus Center, 902 N. Cascade Ave., 389-6606, theideaspace.com. *Basim Magdy: How to Build an Invisible Monument*, a solo show by this Middle Eastern artist, who works in multiple media to alter "entrenched cultural views" and play with notions of irony and absurdity. Jan. 22 to March 8. Opening reception with artist's talk, Tues., Jan. 22, 4:30 p.m. Free.

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, csfineartscenter.org. *Floyd D. Tunson: Son of Pop*, a career-spanning exhibition of the works of longtime Palmer High School art instructor, and celebrated artist, Floyd Tunson. Through Jan. 20. *Wrap Art: Guatemalan Textiles From the Permanent Collection*, as part of the FAC's *Raiding the Crates* series, a guest-curated exhibit of Guatemalan textiles. Jan. 19 to May 26.

Commonwheel Artists Co-op, 102 Cañon Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1008, commonwheel.com. *Pots by the Pound*, a post-holiday sale featuring discounted art priced by weight. Through Jan. 28.

G44 Gallery, 1785 S. 8th St., Suite A, 720/951-0573, g44gallery.com. *Diversity, Perversity & Perplexity*, an exhibition of the life work of Old Colorado City artist William Cummins.

I.D.E.A. Space at Colorado College, Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave., 389-6066, theideaspace.com. *American Qur'an*, an exhibit of paintings depicting Los Angeles artist Sandow Birk's modern interpretation of the Muslim holy book. Jan. 21 to March 12.

Kreuser Gallery, 218 W. Colorado Ave., 630-6347, abigailkreusergallery.com. *Photography by Tim Davis*, a solo show by this artist who says, "Old, worn, weathered, and well-used industrial objects often hold the greatest attraction for me since those surfaces provide rich material for my imagination." Next door, in the Aha Gallery, find work by Jack Risley. Through Jan. 31.

Shears, 334 N. Nevada Ave., 633-4273, shearsbarbershop.com. *Abstract Expressions*, new paintings, encaustics and mixed-media works

from local artists Sheary Clough Suiter and Nard Claar. Through March 15.

Soirée, 1003 S. Tejon St., 633-8313, coloradospringsvenue.com. *Jill Lawson*, a solo show by this local artist. Jan. 19 to March 31. Artist's reception, Sat., Jan. 19, 5-8 p.m.

Auditions&Entries

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center seeks submissions of new scripts for its April program, *Rough Writers: A New Play Fest. Rough Writers* will feature new scripts based on three works of art in the museum. After the Fest, the winning play will be staged during the FAC Theatre Company's 2013-2014 season. More information available online. Submissions due: Feb. 14. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, roughwriters@csfineartscenter.org, csfineartscenter.org.

Cottonwood Center for the Arts seeks submissions for its upcoming Cajun and Carnival Mardi Gras-themed art show opening Jan. 25. Intake Jan. 17-18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. $10 per piece submitted; $50 prize for best in show. Cottonwood Center for the Arts, 427 E. Colorado Ave., 520-1899, cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com/cajun-and-carnival.

Iron Springs Chateau Dinner Theater seeks actors, who should prepare to sing, dance and read, and pianists, who should prepare a three-minute number. Open auditions held Sun., Jan. 20, 1-3 p.m. Iron Springs Chateau, 444 Ruxton Ave., Manitou Springs, 338-6839, ironspringschateau.com.

Kreuser Gallery seeks work for its upcoming juried show *Climb!*, which will seek to portray different facets of climbing. All media accepted. Deadline for entries is Jan. 23. $5-$10. Kreuser Gallery, 218 W. Colorado Ave., 630-6347, abigailkreusergallery.com.

Open auditions for a production of *Les Miserables* will be held Jan. 15-17 from 6-8 p.m. at the Freedom Performing Arts Center, 1129 Ellis Ave., Fort Carson. Performances will be in March. 217-5278.

The Pikes Peak Arts Fest seeks visual artists interested in exhibiting and selling work at the next festival in America the Beautiful Park. Deadline for entries is March 8. pikespeakartsfest.com.

PICK **Swirl Wine Bar,** 717 Manitou Ave., #102, Manitou Springs, 685-2294, swirlismybar.com. *Work by Sarah Milteer*, a solo show of paintings by Milteer, a local artist. Through March 1. Opening reception, Sat., Feb. 2, 7-9 p.m.

St. Patrick's Day Parade call for entries, the parade committee seeks marching bands, service groups, school groups, youths, 4-H and horse groups, as well as dancers, singers and anyone who wants to build a float. Go online for an entry application or call for more information. Deadline for entries: Feb. 22, 4 p.m. 635-8803, csstpats.com.

Clubs&Organizations

Black Cat Books' Knitting Group, a weekly celebration of yarn and stitchery, now at Black Cat Books' new location in the BAC. E-mail RSVP requested. Sundays, 4-6 p.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, natalie@blackcatbooks.com, thebac.org.

Colorado Springs Toastmasters, Mondays, 6 p.m. Maggie Mae's Restaurant & Pub, 2405 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 425-6004, reports.toastmasters.org/findaclub/zoomclub.cfm?clubNumber=555.

Colorado Vegetarian Group, open to anyone interested in a vegetarian or vegan dietary lifestyle. Visit the website or contact coloradospringsveg@yahoo.com for meetings and other details. vegetarian.meetup.com/534.

Deaf Chat, a chance to meet and greet others in the deaf community. Third Friday of every month, 3-6 p.m. Colorado Springs Independence Center, 729 S. Tejon St., 471-8181, csicindliving.org.

Debtors Anonymous, weekly 12-step meetings for those struggling with debt, overspending and/or underearning. First Lutheran Church, 1515 N. Cascade Ave., 641-2979, debtorsanonymous.org.

EntSpirational Speakers Toastmasters Club, a public-speaking and leadership club meeting at 7350 Campus Drive. First and third Wednesday of every month, 12:05 p.m. entspirational.toastmastersclubs.org.

Fibromyalgia Support Group, meetings hosted by a local nonprofit to help reverse and cope with fibromyalgia. Third Monday of every month, 5 p.m. Falcon Police Station, 7850 Goddard St., 633-5340, 481-2230, fibrohelp.net.

Knitwits & Hookers, a knitting and crochet group where all levels of experience are welcome; contact for meeting details, as they change weekly. Mondays. Free. ravelry.com.

MS Support Groups, offering five support groups around the region for those living with MS and their caregivers. For locations and information call 633-4603. Multiple Sclerosis Alliance of Southern Colorado, 1322 N. Academy Blvd., #119, 633-4603, msasoco.org.

Networking Groups, Pikes Peak Job Search Networking Group meets Mondays, 10 a.m. to noon. 50+ Job Seekers Group meets Thursdays, 10 a.m. to noon. Free. Citizens Service Center, 1675 Garden of the Gods Road, 636-0000, dhs.elpasoco.com.

No-Nuts Moms Group of Colorado Springs, a peanut- and tree-nut-free playgroup for all ages, who can participate in indoor and outdoor play dates. Contact the group for specific times and dates. Free. tinyurl.com/nonutsmoms.

Parent Education/Toddler Playgroup, a "positive parenting" playgroup for 2- to 3-year-olds. Call for location. Fridays, 9:30 a.m.; through March 8. 785-3714.

Passage Youth Group, a new LGBT young adult group. Meetings include discussions, films and more. Third Thursday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. Inside/Out Youth Services, 235 S. Nevada Ave., 328-1056, insideoutys.org.

Photography Classes and Group, offering photography and Photoshop classes at various locations around town. Visit 3peaksphoto.com/classes.html for a schedule. A photography group is also open to new members of all skill levels. Visit meetup.com/The-Colorado-Photography-Learning-Group for more information. 260-6637.

Pikes Peak Amputee Connection Monthly Support Group Meeting, meet others with limb loss for peer support, education, recreational resources and more. Third Wednesday of every month, 5-6:30 p.m. TGI Friday's, 7061 Commerce Center Drive, 599-4135, ppaccs.com.

Pikes Peak Jugglers, informal gatherings open to all ages and skill levels. Non-members are welcome. Sundays, 3-5 p.m. Free. Downtown YMCA, 207 N. Nevada Ave., 477-9978, ppymca.org.

Pikes Peak New Horizons Band, for adults 40 and up who would like to continue to play musical

passion. feel it.

Greek philosophers theorized about it. Shakespeare wrote about it. And da Vinci harnessed it. Passion — it drives our students to take risks, think big and build brighter futures.

Let Pikes Peak Community College help you discover your passion.

PPCC.EDU

PIKES PEAK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WORSHIP SERVICES

First Presbyterian Church

Graham Baird,
Senior Pastor

Sunday Services of Worship

Nevada at Bijou

8:20 & 9:45 a.m.
Sanctuary, Blended Style with Choir
9:45 a.m.
Fellowship Hall, Contemporary
11:10 a.m.
Sanctuary, Contemporary
5:00 p.m.
Sanctuary, Contemplative
Nursery at All Services

884-6100

www.first-pres.org

Metropolitan Community Church
theinclusivechurch
This Sunday @ 10am:
Join Us This Sunday!
1102 S. 21st Street, 80904
www.ppmcc.org

Come experience Welcome • Wonder • Witness
Open & Affirming
January 20th,
"Loving the Other"
Rev. Broadbent preaches
20 E. St. Vrain
Worship Services 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 Sundays
Faith Formation Hour 9:45
Nursery Care 8:15-12:30
FIRST CHURCH
www.fcucc.org • 635-3549

Vista Grande Community Church
United Church of Christ
Join us for Sunday Services @ 10am

January 20th
"Wine, Jesus' First Miracle"
John 2:1-11
A caring church for thinking people
Open & Affirming ~ Nursery Provided
5460 N. Union Blvd. 599-3057 vgcc.org

THE SPRINGS CHURCH
SUN: 9 + 11am
WED: 7pm (Prayer + Youth Services)
THU: 7pm (Young Adults)
(719) 488-8331
1515 Auto Mall Loop 80920
thespringschurch.com

Create Community
List your services by calling the *Colorado Springs Independent* at
577-4545

PICK ***Rainbow Town,*** a screening of the 2010 documentary about the Liberian orphanage. Sun., Jan. 20, 5:30 p.m. Fellowship Bible Church, 5580 N. Nevada Ave., 380-0505, fbccs.org.

instruments. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9:15-11:15 a.m. Nazarene Bible College, 1111 Academy Park Loop, 598-2373, ppiom.org.

Pikes Peak Over the Hill Gang, a club for people 50 and over who want to ski, bike, go to wine tastings, theater, monthly potlucks and other activities. Visit the website for more. ppothg.com.

Sno Jets Ski and Social Club, a club for ski enthusiasts. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Dublin House, 1850 Dominion Way, 265-8820, snojets.org.

WINGS, offering therapist-facilitated support groups for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse in which survivors are believed and accepted. A women's group is held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30. 800/373-8671, wingsfound.org.

Comedy&Improv

Dustin Diamond, performances by Diamond, who played Screech on *Saved by the Bell* and has been on numerous reality shows since. Jan. 17-19. $2-$10, two-item minimum. Loonee's Comedy Corner, 1305 N. Academy Blvd., 591-0707, loonees.com.

Improv Colorado, family-friendly improv comedy. Fri., Jan. 18, 7:37 p.m. $8-$10. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, improvcolorado.com.

Lewis Black: The Rant is Due, Sat., Jan. 19, 8 p.m. $45-$59.50. Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 520-7469, pikespeakcenter.com.

Concerts

Chamber Music Concert, a concert from members of the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs. Sun., Jan. 20, 3 p.m. Free. First Christian Church, 16 E. Platte Ave., 633-8888, firstchristiancos.org.

Festival Fridays, a concert with food and drinks for sale. This week: The Martini Shot. Fri., Jan. 18, 5:30 p.m. $5-$6. Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., Pueblo, 719/295-7200, sdc-arts.org.

Music Jam, a jam for those with little or no musical experience. Fridays, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org.

Omar Offendum, a performance by this Middle Eastern rap artist and speaker. Mon., Jan. 21, 11:15 a.m. Free. CC's Armstrong Hall, 14 E. Cache la Poudre St., 389-6000, coloradocollege.edu.

Recital Series, a chamber-music program featuring the oboe, piano and guitar. Wed., Jan. 16, 7 p.m. Free. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 800 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-9259, sangredecristoregion.org.

PICK **Showcase at Studio Bee,** featuring: Lipstick Voodoo, Nobody's Home and Ceol Ceili. Thurs., Jan. 17, 6:45 p.m. Free. Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 520-7469, pikespeakcenter.com.

Taylor Memorial Concert, a performance from organist Wyatt Smith, featuring music by Bach, Vieme and Charles Ore. Sun., Jan. 20, 3 p.m. Free. Grace and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 601 N. Tejon St., 328-1125, graceststephensepiscopal.org.

DanceParties&Classes

Ballroom Dance Party, bring a friend for free admittance. Third Friday of every month, 8-9:30 p.m. $5. Call 471-3338 to RSVP.

Colorado Ballroom, basic instruction and dance time to the waltz, rumba, polka and more. Come at 7 p.m. for a beginners class. No partner or experience required. First and third Saturday of every month, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $3-$5. The Carriage Stop, 2700 W. Robinson St., 598-8624, roncounts.com.

CommuniDance, a free-form dance group. Saturdays, 9-10 a.m. and Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m. By donation. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 963-1809.

Contact Improv, a parter dance form based on a shared point of contact. Wednesdays, 7 p.m.; through Jan 31. By donation. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 963-1809, movementartscs.com.

DancePerformances

PICK **Celebrate MLK Day! With Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Troupe,** a show by this renowned group with special guests the Gospel Music Workshop of America Choir. A reception to follow. Mon., Jan. 21, 7 p.m. Free. CC's Armstrong Hall, 14 E. Cache la Poudre St., 389-6000, coloradocollege.edu.

Soul Mechanics, a "public jam session" from the local break-dancing crew. Mondays, Wednesdays, 9 p.m. Ormao Dance Company, 10 S. Spruce St., 471-9759, ormaodance.org.

Film

The Pueblo Performing Arts Guild, in conjunction with the Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority, seeks local filmmakers to make a short promotional video about the city's creative scene. Filmmakers must live in Pueblo County. Submissions are due by Jan. 25. 855/543-2430, pueblopag.org.

"The Way of the Dream," a conversation around the film series with Jungian analyst Dr. Marie-Louise von Franz. Sat., Jan. 19, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. $45-$50. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 527-0622, csjung.org.

Food&Drink

New Zealand Wine Dinner, a themed dinner paired with wines. Sat., Jan. 19, 6:30 p.m. $55. 2 South Wine Bar, 2 S. 25th St., 351-2806.

Repeal of Prohibition Cocktail Night, enjoy special drinks, costumes and more. Thurs., Jan. 17, 6:30 p.m. Coquette's Bistro & Bakery, 915 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-2420, coquettes-bistroandbakery.com.

Surf & Turf Wine Dinner, a six-course meal paired with complementary wines. Wed., Jan. 16, 6:30 p.m. $55. Margarita at PineCreek, 7350 Pine Creek Road, 598-8667, coloradoeats.com/margarita/home.html.

GetInvolved

Fracking Ground Zero Report, a film screening and commentary from citizens who visited a canyon near Rifle and found negative impacts from fracking there. Hosted by Colorado Springs Citizens for Community Rights. Thurs., Jan. 17, 6:30 p.m. First Congregational Church, 20 E. St. Vrain St., 576-5565, tinyurl.com/blbsdm9.

"Green" Bag Lunch-n-Learn: "The Energy and Education Nexus," a panel discussion and chance to learn about what local spots like Colorado College, the Air Force Academy, Harrison School District 2 and others are doing to reduce their non-sustainable energy needs and talk about how "such efforts translate to students in the learning environment." Thurs., Jan. 17, 12:11 p.m. Free. City Administration Building, 30 S. Nevada Ave., 385-6609, tinyurl.com/cwtjrfd.

The Middle East Peace Project seeks people interested in participating in the two-week summer camp with the Israeli Committee Against Housing Demolitions. Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission, 332 W. Bijou St., #102, 715/803-3488, middleeastpeaceproject.net.

Urban Renewal Authority Board call, apply to serve on this volunteer board; preferred applicants will have experience in redevelopment and master planning and familiarity with the city's Development Review Process. Send letters of interest and résumés to bbonn@springsgov.com or Mayor Steve Bach, 30 S. Nevada Ave., Colorado Springs, CO, 80903. Applications may also be filled out online (then e-mailed or snail mailed) at springsgov.com (click "Get Involved," then "Committees, Commissions and Boards"). Applications due no later than Jan. 23. 385-5900.

Health&Healing

"Healing Procrastination and Finding Balance," a class with a clinical hypnotherapist. Sat., Jan. 19, 10 a.m. to noon. $20. Unity Church in the Rockies, 1945 Mesa Road, 238-5945, cospringshypnotherapy.com.

Heart Support Group, a gathering of men, women and caregivers living with/helping with, or at risk for, heart disease. Third Wednesday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. Penrose Hospital Main, 2222 N. Nevada Ave., 200-2645, penrosestfrances.org.

Manitou Yoga, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 8 a.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org.

Medicine Wheel and 12 Steps for Youth, a three- to four-month course for youths who are at risk for substance abuse. $15. Lotus Center for Self-Discovery, 2860 S. Circle Drive, #120, 229-8280, lotuscenterco.org.

"Own Your Own Health," an interactive workshop designed to help you develop a path to personal health. Held at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 19 at Monument Branch Library (1706 Lake Woodmoor Drive, Monument); and at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 22 at Penrose Library (20 N. Cascade Ave.). 303/995-8275, oyoh.org.

Scleroderma Support Group, a meeting held at the Girl Scout Service Center, 3535 Parkmoor Village Drive. Third Saturday of every month, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. 303/806-6686, scleroderma.org/colorado.

"Spiritually Take Off Pounds (S.T.O.P.)," a workshop to help you "get off the roller coaster of emotional eating and yo-yo diets." Sat., Jan. 19, 3 p.m. Free. Peoples National Bank, 651 Scott Ave., Woodland Park, 687-6823, iampowerprayer.com.

PICK **Sabi,** 330 N. Institute St., 471-4237, facebook.com. *Lexi Harris*, a solo show of photography.

Holiday

All Peoples' Breakfast: Honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., a breakfast organized by the Pikes Peak Justice & Peace Commission, featuring the Friendship Baptist Youth Choir and a talk by Diann Rust-Tierney, the executive director of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. Seating limited. Mon., Jan. 21, 8 a.m. $7. CC's Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave., coloradocollege.edu.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Festival, featuring light refreshments and "fun, inspiration and entertainment for the whole family." Sat., Jan 19, 7 p.m. Free. Ute Pass Cultural Center, 210 E. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, 761-8566.

Treecycle Your Christmas Tree, a chance to dispose of your Christmas tree. Held at Rocky Top Resources, 1755 E. Las Vegas St. Through Jan. 31, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. $5. 520-7878, treecyclecos.org.

"Unity in the City," an event honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Sun., Jan. 20, 3:30 p.m. St. John's Baptist Church, 902 S. Prospect St., 217-6152.

Kids&Family

Bubble Time with Friends, a storytime for babies up to 12 months old, featuring songs and bouncing-action rhymes. Fridays, 10 a.m.; through Jan. 25. High Prairie Library, 7035 Old Meridian Road, 593-8000, ppld.org.

"College Perspectives," a night of information regarding financial aid, FAFSA, scholarships and more. Wed., Jan. 16, 6:30 p.m. Free. The Vanguard School at Cheyenne Mountain Charter Academy, 1605 S. Corona Ave.

Fountain Valley School Visiting Day, a chance to learn more about the school. RSVP by Jan. 16 for the Jan. 21, 8 a.m. event. Fountain Valley School, 6155 Fountain Valley School Road, 390-7035, fvs.edu.

Nature Program: Bird Watching, a story hour for preschoolers with a craft to make and take home. Reservations recommended. Fri., Jan. 18, 10 a.m. and Fri., Jan. 25, 10 a.m. Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center, 1805 N. 30th St., 219-0108, gardenofgods.com.

Twos & Threes Outdoors: Bobcats, Cougars and Lynx, a chance for children 2 and 3, with an adult, to learn more about big cats. Reservations required. Thurs., Jan. 17, 10 a.m. $3. Fountain Creek Nature Center, 320 Peppergrass Lane, Fountain, 520-6745, elpasocountyparks.com.

Winter Nature Detectives, a family morning with educational activities: a craft, hike and more. Reservations required. Sat., Jan. 19, 10 a.m. $4-$5. Bear Creek Nature Center, 245 Bear Creek Road, 520-6387, elpasocountyparks.com.

Lectures&Learning

Acting Workshop, a class with Steve Emily, actor and director who has worked with TheatreWorks, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center Theatre Company and numerous others. RSVP to impossibleplayers@hotmail.com Sat., Jan. 19, 1-4 p.m. $6. Impossible Playhouse, 1201 N. Main St., Pueblo, 719/542-6969, impossibleplayers.org.

Tax Talks, a chance to get free tax advice from H&R Block professionals and the Pikes Peak Library District on a variety of topics, including property ownership, family tax credits and the Affordable Care Act. Topics, times and locations vary by date; call for details. Mondays-Thursdays, Saturdays; through Jan. 30. 369-8326.

LiteraryEvents

"Hear Here" Poetry Open Mic, an all-ages poetry open mic hosted by Poetry 719. Second and third Saturday of every month, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 964-4499, tinyurl.com/hearhere719.

"Jane Austen as Narratologist," a lecture from professor George Butte. Sun., Jan. 20, 1-2 p.m. CC's Cossitt Hall, 906 N. Cascade Ave., pikespeakjasna@gmail.com.

The Pikes Peak Poet Laureate Project, in conjunction with the Fountain Valley School, seeks original poems from area high-school students for a poetry contest. Deadline for entries is March 1. Fountain Valley School, 6155 Fountain Valley School Road, 337-0004, dreynolds@fvs.edu, fvs.edu.

PICK **Poor Richard's Book Signing,** local author Dr. Nancy Saltzman will sign her book *Radical Survivor*. Sun., Jan. 20, 3 p.m. Poor Richard's Bookstore, 320 N. Tejon St., 578-0012, poorrichardsdowntown.com.

Rocky Mountain Haiku Group, a meeting of the club, focusing on the Japanese poetry form of renga. Sun., Jan. 20, 2:30 p.m. Free. Mediterranean Cafe, 118 E. Kiowa St., 540-2038, medcafe-co.com.

Museums&Attractions

PICK **Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum,** 215 S. Tejon St., 385-5990, cspm.org. Space Day, a chance to see the museum's new traveling exhibit *To the Moon: Snoopy Soars with NASA*, make crafts, hear a lecture about the space industry, and more. At 2 p.m., Space Foundation Chief Executive Officer Elliot Pulham will also speak. ($5 donation.) RSVP by Jan. 18 for the Jan. 19, 10 a.m. event.

PICK **Sangre de Cristo Arts Center,** 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., Pueblo, 719/295-7200, sdc-arts.org. *Battle Portraits: Wounded Lions Wounded Lambs*, a presentation of local artist Laura Ben-Amots' years-long project in which she interviewed and painted wounded soldiers struggling to re-enter civilian life. Through Feb. 13. *Gene Diodato*, held in Sangre's Foyer galleries, a series of plein air paintings (pictured). Jan. 19 to April 20. *Klaus Anselm*, a series of works by this Pueblo artist who hails from Germany and worked as a doctor before turning to weaving. Jan. 19 to April 20. Opening reception for all shows, Fri., Jan. 18, 5-7 p.m.

The Money Museum, 818 N. Cascade Ave., 632-2646, money.org. Mini-Mint Demonstration, a demonstration of a mini screw press in action, which will produce commemorative coins visitors can take home. Third Saturday of every month, noon to 4 p.m. Free.

SpecialEvents

Annual Potluck Dinner and Membership Drive, a chance to learn more about the educational nonprofit. Thurs., Jan. 17, 6:30 p.m. Free. Palmer Lake Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent, Palmer Lake.

Fasching Winter Karneval, a German-themed party with food, drinks, special guests and more. Costumes of any kind encouraged. Held at Pueblo Union Depot, 132 W. B St., Pueblo. 21 and up. Sat., Jan. 19, 7 p.m. $10. 719/565-7727, PuebloGermanClub.org.

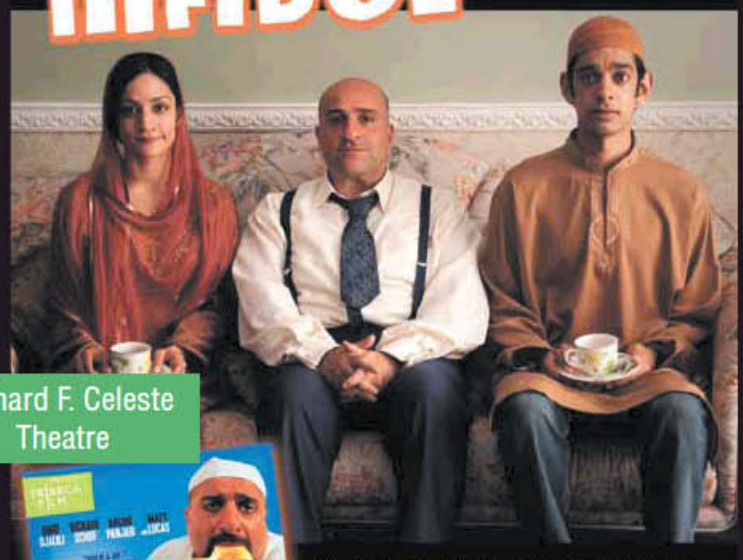
Pikes Peak Justice & Peace Commission Annual Meeting and Party for Peace, a potluck dinner with a presentation of the J&P's Middle East Peace Project, as well as an annual report, music and more. RSVP to attend. Sat., Jan. 19, 5:30 p.m. CC's Slocum Commons, 130 E. Cache la Poudre St., 632-6189, ppjpc.org.

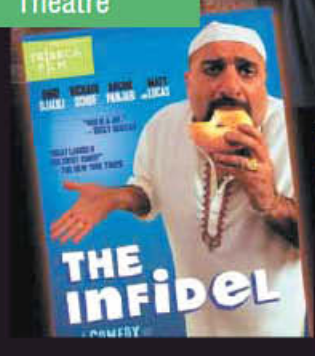
Spirituality

Bhagavan Kirtan, a call-and-response session accompanied by a live band. Sat., Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m. Yoga Journeys Studio, 709 N. Nevada Ave., #201, 748-3585.

Free AND OPEN TO THE Public

Cross Currents Film Series Presents
THE INFIDEL
mon feb 4
4-6:30pm
Richard F. Celeste Theatre





With an introduction by Jane Murphy, Assistant Professor of History. Following the film, the audience is invited to participate in a panel discussion on the use of humor to address potentially divisive topics such as cultural and religious identity.

God, that's funny!
Richard F. Celeste Theatre
tues
feb 5
7pm

Religion, Humor, Politics & Identity
A panel discussion featuring writers from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds who use humor to address potentially divisive subjects.

EDITH KINNEY GAYLORD CORNERSTONE ARTS CENTER
Cornerstone Arts Week 2013
February 4-8
Cornerstone Arts Week 2013 explores the ways in which humor and the arts create bridges between cultures, belief systems, and yes — even political parties.

Visit coloradocollege.edu or theideaspace.com for a full schedule of events.

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I.D.E.A. a Colorado College InterDisciplinary Experimental Arts
COLORADO COLLEGE

"Buddhist Psychology of Understanding the Mind," a series on Thursdays, through Feb. 14. $7-$10. Center for Spiritual Living, 3685 Jeannine Drive, 596-6894, cslcs.org.

Community HU Song, a community service open to those from any religious background. Fri., Jan. 18, 7 p.m. Free. Colorado Springs Eckankar Center, 1685 W. Uintah St., #100, 633-0453, eckankar.org.

Spirituality Group, Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. Black Cat Books, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, manitoubooks.com.

Springs Mountain Sangha, offering Zen meditation sessions Monday evenings from 6:10-8 p.m. (newcomers please arrive at 5:45); Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 a.m.; and Saturdays 6:30-8:30 a.m. CC's Shove Memorial Chapel, 1010 N. Nevada Ave., 685-1994, smszen.org.

Tibetan Buddhist Meditation, meditation and teaching on offerings practice with Venerable Sangpo. Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Free, or by donation. CC's Shove Memorial Chapel, 1010 N. Nevada Ave., 447-9880, tsling.org.

Weekly Spiritual Gathering, non-religious meet-ups with "laughter, song and great people." RSVP for more information. Wednesdays, 6-8:30 p.m. By donation. 433-9625, kenpeacecarroll@gmail.com.

PICK **Mediterranean Cafe,** 118 E. Kiowa St., 633-0115, oddmosis.net. *Neon Wilderness*, an exhibition of paintings "exploring the nature of wildlife through color." Jan 18 to Feb. 18. Opening reception, Fri., Jan. 18, 6 p.m.

Stage

Colorado You Got Talent 2013 Live Finals, the finale of this local talent show. Sat., Jan 19, 5 p.m. $6-$20. Colorado Springs City Auditorium, 221 E. Kiowa St., 465-2001, springsgov.com.

The Lion in Winter, a production of this award-winning play about King Henry II of England, his estranged wife Eleanor of Aquitaine, and their three sons, each vying for the throne. Jan. 17 to Feb. 3. $10-$15. Springs Ensemble Theatre, 1903 E. Cache La Poudre St., 357-3080, springsensembletheatre.org.

The Trial, a new adaptation of Kafka's story about a man put on trial before a shadowy authority for an unknown crime. Fridays-Sundays, 8 p.m.; through Jan. 27. $5-$10. THEATREdART, 128 N. Nevada Ave., 684-3802, theatredart.org.

VolunteerOpportunities

CASA of the Pikes Peak Region seeks volunteers to advocate for victims of child abuse and neglect. Training provided. CASA of the Pikes Peak Region, 701 S. Cascade Ave., 447-9898, casappr.org.

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance seeks an experienced grant writer for local nonprofit serving individuals and families affected by mood disorders. Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, 2132 E. Bijou, #112, 477-1515, dbsacoloradosprings.org.

Marian House needs volunteer drivers to help pick up commodities at various stops throughout the Springs two to three hours per week. Call Theo Reiter at 866-6549 for more. Marian House, 14 W. Bijou St., 475-2347, ccharitiescs.org.

North End Adult Day Care seeks volunteers to play games, sing, make arts and crafts and more with North End's seniors, who are in need of memory care. Call for more information. 351-8786, northendadultdaycare.com.

Odyssey HealthCare Hospice is seeking volunteers to offer companionship to people with terminal illnesses by sharing your talents as a musician, artist, pet therapist or just by listening. Volunteers must complete training; call for dates. 573-4166, rshardy@odsyhealth.com.

Peak Area Council of Governments seeks volunteers with good clerical and customer service skills to help seniors improve their independence and quality of life by working in the Senior Information and Assistance Center. 4-7 hours per week. 471-7080, jwilkinson@ppacg.org.

Pikes Peak Hospice & Palliative Care is seeking volunteers in various capacities, especially for help on the weekends, such as working in prescription animal therapy, handling courier duties, being vigil volunteers (who sit with dying patients) and Helping Hands volunteers who perform various chores after a patient dies. Pikes Peak Hospice & Palliative Care, 2550 Tenderfoot Hill St., 633-3400 ext. 600, pikespeakhospice.org.

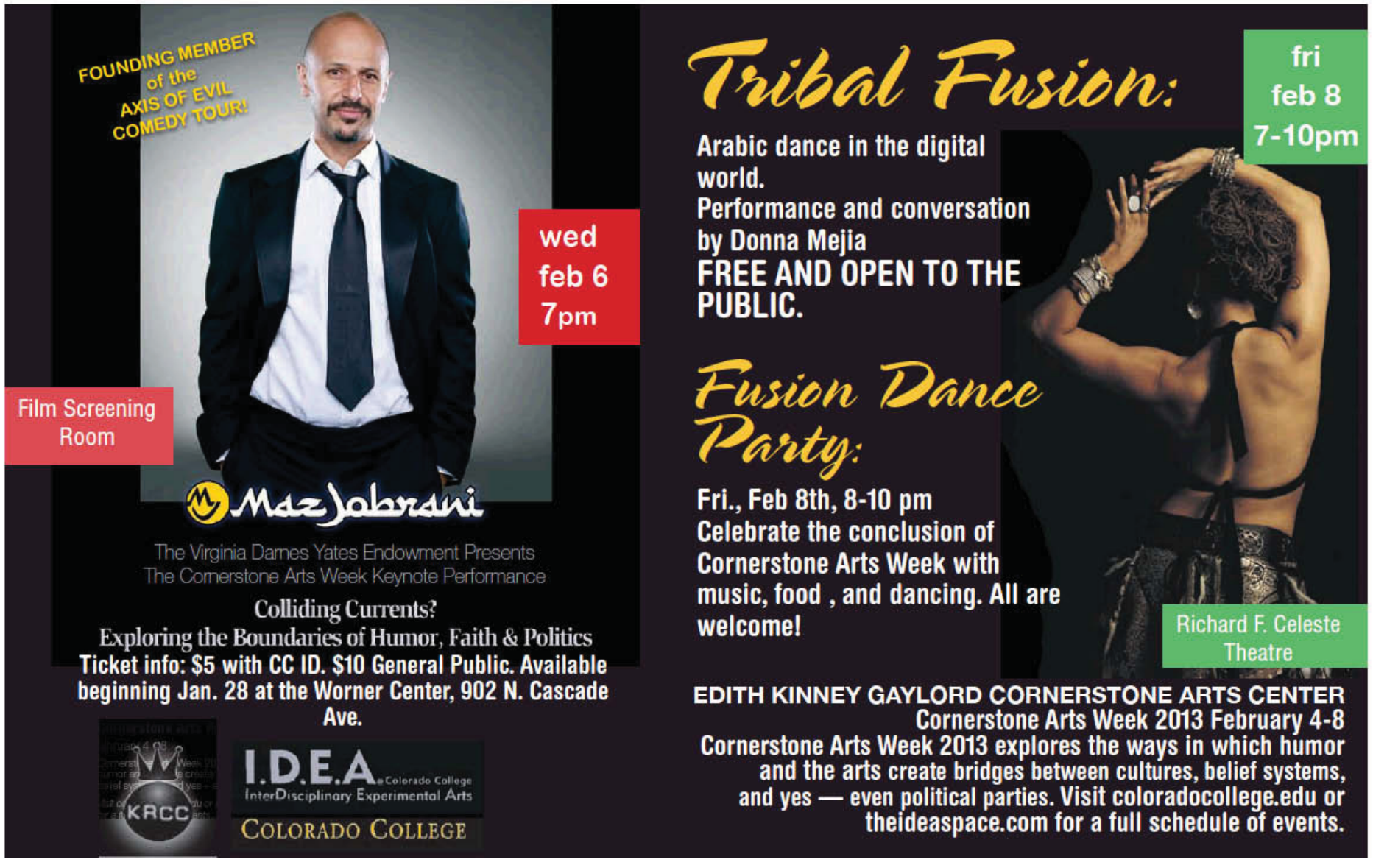
(Pikes) Peak Pet Pantry is seeking donations of pet food and volunteers to help pick up and distribute food, talk to business sponsors and more. 217-9528, pikespeakpetpantry.org.

Project Angel Heart needs volunteers to help deliver free, nutritious meals to those with life-threatening illnesses. Apply online for more. projectangelheart.org.

MORE
Search all other listings online at csindy.com

How to Submit a Listing

Listings is a free service we offer to our readers. If you'd like to publicize an event or notice, send us the details — who, what, where, when, how much and publishable contact information — in writing **by Wednesday at noon for the following Wednesday's paper**. If humanly possible, please do so at csindy.com: Simply click "Submit an event" at the bottom of the homepage, and the rest is self-explanatory. Other means of submission include e-mail (listings@csindy.com) or fax (577-4107). One-time events typically make it into the issue on the Wednesday leading up to that event; ongoing events sometimes are included in additional issues. That said, events are included on a space-available basis, meaning we can't ever guarantee a listing will make it into print. So we strongly discourage relying on Listings as your sole source of publicity — if you'd like to guarantee placement in the *Indy*, you can purchase an ad in our classifieds section or in our retail advertising section by calling 577-4545. Questions? E-mail listings@csindy.com or call 577-4545.


FOUNDING MEMBER of the AXIS OF EVIL COMEDY TOUR!
wed feb 6 7pm
Film Screening Room
MazJobrani
The Virginia Darnes Yates Endowment Presents
The Cornerstone Arts Week Keynote Performance
Colliding Currents?
Exploring the Boundaries of Humor, Faith & Politics
Ticket info: $5 with CC ID. $10 General Public. Available beginning Jan. 28 at the Worner Center, 902 N. Cascade Ave.
KRCC
I.D.E.A. Colorado College InterDisciplinary Experimental Arts
COLORADO COLLEGE
Tribal Fusion:
fri feb 8 7-10pm
Arabic dance in the digital world.
Performance and conversation by Donna Mejia
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
Fusion Dance Party:
Fri., Feb 8th, 8-10 pm
Celebrate the conclusion of Cornerstone Arts Week with music, food , and dancing. All are welcome!
Richard F. Celeste Theatre
EDITH KINNEY GAYLORD CORNERSTONE ARTS CENTER
Cornerstone Arts Week 2013 February 4-8
Cornerstone Arts Week 2013 explores the ways in which humor and the arts create bridges between cultures, belief systems, and yes — even political parties. Visit coloradocollege.edu or theideaspace.com for a full schedule of events.

StrangerThanFiction

Curses, foiled again

Pennsylvania state police accused Randy R. Clinkscales, 27, of stealing a man's identity after he applied for a credit card in the victim's name and used it for a nose job. When the victim reported an unauthorized charge of $6,000, investigators contacted the medical practice and learned the patient had identified himself as the victim. He also posed for photos before the surgery. Police used a facial-recognition program to match the images with Pennsylvania driver's license photos and identified Clinkscales, who pleaded guilty. (*Doyleston Intelligencer*)

What could go wrong?

Among the attractions that Randy Stears, president and head trainer of Florida's Dade City Wild Things, announced he's planning for his 22-acre zoo is a zipline over the tiger habitat. (*The Tampa Tribune*)

Slightest provocation

A New Zealand court sentenced Phillip Russell, 46, to six months in jail for striking his wife in the chest with an ostrich egg because her pet pig ran amok and damaged his power saw. (Agence France-Presse)

When Randall White, 49, complained about slow service waiting for his pizza at a Little Caesars in St. Petersburg, Fla., another customer in line, Michael Jock, 52, admonished him. That "prompted them to exchange words," police official Mike Puetz said, "and it became a shoving match." White raised a fist, and Jock pulled out a .38 Taurus Ultralight Special Revolver and shot White in the torso twice. Puetz said when police arrived, Jock insisted the shooting was justified under Florida's "stand your ground" law because he feared for his life. (*Tampa Bay Times*)

Feats of science

Among the winners of the 2012 Ig Nobel awards, sponsored by the journal *Annals of Improbable Research*:

• Dutch researchers Anita Eerland, Rolf Zwaan and Tulio Guadalupe were awarded the psychology prize for their study "Leaning to the Left Makes the Eiffel Tower Seem Smaller."

• The acoustics prize went to Japanese scientists Kazutaka Kurihara and Koji Tsukada for creating the SpeechJammer, a machine that repeats public speakers' words with a slight delay to alert them if they are speaking too quickly or have taken more than their allotted time.

• Frans de Waal and Jennifer Pokorny won the anatomy prize for discovering that chimpanzees can identify each other by looking at pictures of their rear ends. (BBC News)

Infernal triangles

Candice Lee, 37, and her husband had an open marriage and invited her former lover, Shakir Muilam, 45, to live with them at their home in Monroe County, Fla. after he was diagnosed with cancer. Sheriff's deputies said that when she began having a relationship with a new boyfriend, Muilam objected. She explained to the deputies that she grabbed a .22-caliber rifle and shot him in the thigh. (*Miami Herald*)

When Nashville police pulled Michael McCarrell over for failing to use a turn signal, they found a 17-year-old girl sandwiched between him and his wife in the front seat. The couple explained they met the girl on a dating website and picked her up in Kentucky so Amanda McCarrell, 27, could have sex with her. The couple insisted they didn't realize the girl was under 18, but police charged them with sexual exploitation of a minor. (Nashville's *The Tennessean*)

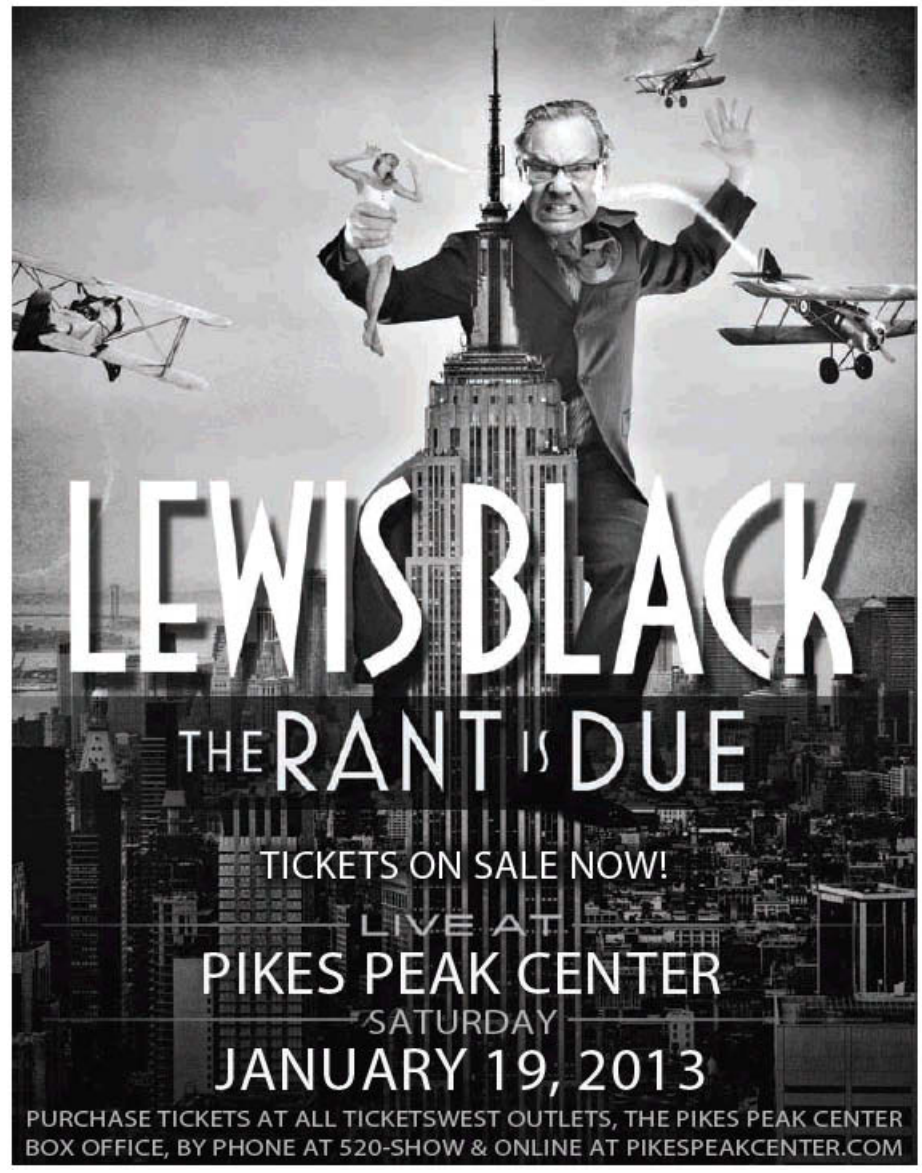
Business directory

A New York boutique that specializes in breast pumps and accessories: Yummy Mummy. (*The Washington Post*)

Co-founders of Generation Investment Management, who stand to reap a sizable share of the $500 million that al-Jazeera agreed to pay for Current TV: David Blood and Al Gore. (Bloomberg News)

Compiled by Roland Sweet. Send clippings, citing source and date, to P.O. Box 8130, Alexandria, VA 22306.

Read more Stranger Than Fiction at csindy.com.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Medical marijuana news of the week

SAM or sham?

Last week brought the creation of a new national anti-legalization group, called **Project SAM: Smart Approaches to Marijuana**, with an interesting approach. Chaired by former Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy (son of the late Sen. Ted Kennedy), SAM (learnaboutsam.com) says it wants to "move beyond simplistic dichotomies of 'incarceration versus legalization' and instead focus on practical changes in marijuana policy."

Basically, the Denver-based group plans on doing this through pushing prison-sentence reform, keeping Big Tobacco out of the industry, and trying to kill the existing industry through "getting information to lawmakers and the public about the perils of marijuana addiction and legalization."

The Marijuana Policy Project (mpp.org), which just funded the majority of the Campaign to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol, was not amused.

"Former Congressman Kennedy's proposal is the definition of hypocrisy," says Mason Tvert, the group's recently hired communications director. "He is living in part off of the fortune his family made by selling alcohol."

'Shadow' rising

A press release on which *Westword* reported last week says the **Cannabis Alliance for Regulation and Education** (equalizecannabis.com), an effort that includes noted activists Rico Colibri and Kathleen Chippi, is seeking volunteers to create the A64 Shadow Task Force.

"We feel the formation of such a group is needed after reviewing the task force's first set of meetings," it reads, "as it became clear that Colorado needs a broader and more inclusive and diverse think tank."

If interested, send a résumé to Colibri at rico@cannabis-alliance.org.

Keef crumbs

• The trial of local MMJ pioneer **Mike Lee** has been delayed multiple times, but is finally set to start Feb. 4. "The prosecutor in the case has made a motion to dismiss the 2 felony counts — and refile 2 misdemeanors," writes district attorney spokeswoman Lee Richards in an e-mail.

• The Colorado Springs group **Coloradans 4 Cannabis Patient Rights** (c4cpr.org) is coming to a screen near you, writes president Audrey Hatfield in a Facebook message. "We will feature a local cannabis business and patient with each show and we also will have a small audience." It starts at 7 p.m., Feb. 5., and can be live-streamed at denveropenmedia.org/livestream.

• A press release says a new study, conducted in part by the University of Colorado's **Daniel I. Rees**, shows that "laws that make it illegal to drive with detectable levels of a controlled substance in the system have little to no effect on traffic fatalities." Read it yourself at tinyurl.com/thcduistudy.

— Bryce Crawford

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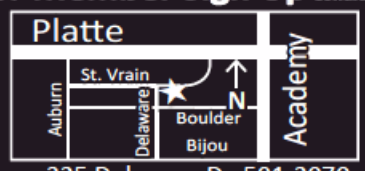

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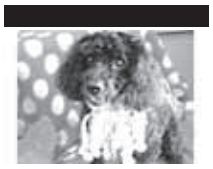

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AdviceGoddess

By Amy Alkon

New kid on the bloc

I spent the last two years in the Peace Corps in Eastern Europe and just committed to another year. Before my assignment, I was dating a decent guy, but I told him it was temporary. When I was home on leave this summer, it was evident he hadn't let the relationship go. I reiterated that I just wanted friendship, but when I was back in Europe he e-mailed, asking if I still love him. He's always been really supportive, and even visited me in my first year, but I again told him I didn't have romantic feelings for him. He asked for time to get over us. I promised not to contact him until he contacted me. This month, after three months of silence, he messaged me saying he wanted to talk, but now he won't respond to my e-mails to set up a Skype date. I miss him terribly and wonder if I made a mistake ending it with him. Then again, I'm living in a culture where women my age are all married with two kids, and I'm getting a lot of pressure to get married.— Confused

Assuming you aren't willing or able to "date local," this guy is effectively the last man on earth for you, at least for a year. Yeah, sure, you could go on a dating site and pique some new guy's interest, but imagine the directions for the first date: "Hop a 16-hour transatlantic flight, take three buses, transfer to the local mule cart, and tell Szylblczlka to turn left at the second group of goats in the road."

Until recently, even with thousands of miles between you, this guy's been conveniently located: stuck on you. It sounds like you admire his good qualities — sort of in the way a great auntie appreciates her little grand-nephew's accomplishments in the macaroni arts.

Leave the guy alone so he can get you out of his system.

But, romance? Nuh-uh. Not feelin' it. Friendship only. And that's final. Well, sort of final. Because, while absence, punctuated by the occasional Skype chat, couldn't make the heart grow fonder, there's nothing that gins up feeling in a girl like the sudden and inexplicable disappearance of a guy after years of his tongue-dragging, tail-wagging, puppydog-like reliability.

Adding to this allure, you're the single lady surrounded by all these happy villager couples. This leads to you telling yourself that maybe you're only now recognizing the guy's wonderfulness, but what you're really saying is, "I don't particularly have feelings for him, but he's always had feelings for me, and I'm kinda lonely over here in Upper Eastern Wherever, where the milkmaid next door just got married at 14."

Paraphrasing Kant on how people shouldn't be treated as means to an end, "Don't be a user! That's, like, so bogue." Instead, engage in a truly humanitarian gesture — leave the guy alone so he can get you out of his system and go find somebody else. Ideally, she'll also "miss him terribly" when they're apart — but not simply because he's the one man she has contact with who lacks both a wife and the belief that pink No. 300 sandpaper doubles for White Cloud and a glass of warm water is the week's bath.

Casing Amy

I'm a straight man who's become friends with two bona fide, card-carrying lesbians. One I met hiking and the other is a co-worker. Dominique and Angelique (not their real names) are both very attractive. I consider each a good friend, have lunched with them, hugged them, and met their respective unattractive partners (each of whom looks like a man). I know they are not interested in men, yet I continue to have prurient thoughts about them, and find this continuing attraction to gay women confusing.— Wrong Hots

Wait. You're a heterosexual man who has the hots for hot women who get it on with other women? Weird. And yet, there must be other men out there who feel as you do, considering the vast selection of videos titled *Hot Lesbian Action*, and the paucity of titles like *Two Lesbian Soccer Moms Nuzzle on the Couch While Sharing a Bag of Kale Chips*. Guess what: You aren't attracted to gay women; you're attracted to extremely attractive women, some of whom happen to be gay. (Not surprisingly, when coming up with aliases for your friends, you reach for names that are more stripper than lady field hockey coach.) If you're content to remain a les-bro — a straight guy who's friends with lesbians — your lesbian friends can provide you with priceless benefits: unlimited insight into the bizarre thinking and behavior of women.

Just be sure you always keep a firm grip on the bottom line: If they were into men, they'd be dating a man instead of a woman who kind of looks like one.

***Got a problem? Write Amy Alkon, 171 Pier Ave, #280, Santa Monica, CA 90405, or e-mail adviceamy@aol.com (advicegoddess.com). Alkon is the author of* I See Rude People: One Woman's Battle to Beat Some Manners Into Impolite Society.**

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2	4				7			8
		3		2		6		
	6		7		8		5	9
		1				8		
9	8		3		6		2	
		4		7		5		
3			9				8	6

Complete the grid so that every row, column, diagonal and 3x3 box contain the numbers 1 to 9. Use logic to define the answers. Answers on page 46

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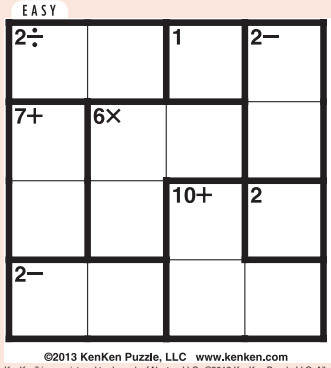
EASY



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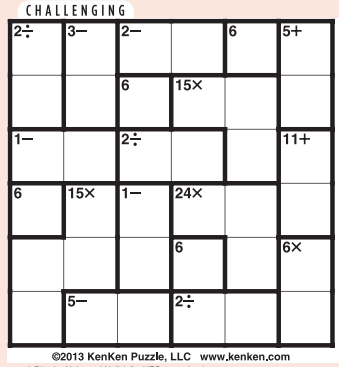
CHALLENGING



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Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a number in any row or column, and so that the digits within each heavily outlined cage will produce the target number show by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division. A 4x4 grid uses the digits 1,2,3,4, while a 6x6 grid uses the numbers 1-6.

For puzzle answers, see page 46

RULES

1. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
3. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

FreeWillAstrology

By Rob Brezsny

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A San Francisco writer named Maneesh Sethi decided he was wasting too much time on the Internet. His productivity was suffering. So he hired a woman to sit next to him as he worked and yell at him or slap his face every time his attention wandered in the direction of Facebook or a funny video. It worked. He got a lot more done. While I would like to see you try some inventive approaches to pumping up your own efficiency, I don't necessarily endorse Sethi's gimmicky technique. Start brainstorming about some interesting yet practical new ways to enhance your self-discipline, please.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "If you would hit the mark, you must aim a little above it," wrote 19th-century poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. "Every arrow that flies feels the attraction of the earth." This is good counsel for you to keep in mind during the coming weeks, Aries. I suspect you will have a good, clear shot at a target you've been trying to get close to for a long time. Make sure you adjust your trajectory to account for the attraction of the earth.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): If you learn a novel idea or crucial new lesson while tipsy or outright blitzed, you will probably forget it when you sober up. And it will remain forgotten as long as you abstain. But there's a good chance you will recall the vanished information the next time you get loopy. Even if you haven't been inebriated lately, you have definitely been in an altered and expanded state of consciousness. I'm afraid when you come back down to earth, you might lose some luminous insights you've been adding to your repertoire. Is there anything you can do to ensure you will retain these treasures? It would be a shame to lose track of them until the next time your mind gets thoroughly blown open.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Studying the movements of planets is my main way of discerning the hidden currents of fate. I sometimes supplement my investigations by reading Tarot cards and the Chinese "Book of Changes," also known as the *I Ching*. To arrive at your horoscope this week, I used all of the above as well as the following forms of prognostication: catoptromancy, which is divination by gazing into a mirror under water; cyclomancy, or divination by watching a wheel that's turning; geloscopy, divination by listening to random laughter; and margaritomancy, divination by observing bouncing pearls. Here's what I found: You now have the power to discern previously unfathomable patterns in a puzzling mystery you've been monitoring. You also have the ability to correctly surmise the covert agendas of allies and adversaries alike. Maybe best of all, you can discover certain secrets you've been concealing from yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "To be reborn is a constantly recurring human need," said drama critic Henry Hewes. I agree. We all need to periodically reinvent ourselves — to allow the old ways to die so that we can resurrect ourselves in unforeseen new forms. According to my analysis, Cancerian, your next scheduled rebirth is drawing near. For best results, don't cling to the past; don't imitate what has always worked before. Instead, have faith that surrendering to the future will bring you the exact transformation you need.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): My readers Paul and Sophie wrote to let me know they have patched together three Latin words to invent a term for a new concept: *vomfiabone*. They say it means "a curse that becomes a blessing." Here's an example of the phenomenon at work in their lives: While driving home from work together, they experienced car trouble and had to pull over to the shoulder of the road, where they called a tow truck. Later they discovered that this annoying delay prevented them from getting caught in the middle of an accident just up ahead. Extrapolating from the current astrological omens, I'm guessing that you will experience at least one *vomfiabone* in the coming week, Leo.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): I bet in the next five months you will be obliged to carry more responsibility than you have in the past. You will find it hard to get away with being lazy or careless. I suspect that during this time you will also have the privilege of wielding more influence. The effect you have on people will be more pronounced and enduring. In short, your workload will be greater than usual — and so will your rewards. To the degree that you serve the greater good, you will be a major player. As for the next few weeks, you should concentrate on the work and service and responsibility part of this equation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do you know what a "binky" is? It's what a rabbit does when it gets so crazily happy that it exuberantly leaps into the air, stretching and twisting as it flicks and flops its feet. I'm not sure if lexicographers would allow us to apply this term to humans. But I predict that you'll soon be having some binky-inducing experiences. You're entering the Joy and Pleasure Season, Libra — a time when abundant levels of fun and well-being might be quite normal.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You know that area on your back that you can't quite reach if you want to scratch it? It's called your acnestis. I propose that we make it your featured metaphor of the week. Why? Because I suspect you will have to deal with a couple of itchy situations that are just beyond your ability to relieve. Yes, this may be frustrating in the short run. But it will ultimately make you even more resourceful than you already are. By this time next week, you will have figured out alternative solutions that you haven't even imagined yet.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "We need new friends," said essayist Logan Pearsall Smith. "Some of us are cannibals who have eaten their old friends up; others must have ever-renewed audiences before whom to re-enact an ideal version of their lives." Smith could have been talking about you in early 2013. According to my interpretation of the astrological omens, you need some fresh alliances. Their influence will activate certain potentials that you haven't been able to access or fully express with the help of your current circle.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "Ronnyjohnson618" is a guy who posts his opinions on a wide variety of YouTube videos. Many times, he claims to be an expert in the field he's commenting on. Responding to a live music performance, he says he's a conductor for an orchestra. Offering his opinion about a mimosa plant, he asserts that he is a botanist. Beneath other YouTube videos, he declares he is a meteorologist, chemist, psychologist, soldier and geometry teacher. I love this guy's blithe swagger; I'm entertained by the brazen fun he's having. As you express yourself in the coming week, I recommend that you borrow some of his over-the-top audacity. Create a mythic persona. Imagine your life as an epic story. Play the part of a hero.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The earliest performance artist on record was ancient Greek philosopher Diogenes of Sinope. In one of his notorious stunts, he wandered around Athens with a lit lantern during the daytime, claiming to be looking for an authentic human being. I recommend that you undertake a similar search in the coming days. You don't have to be as theatrical about it. In fact, it might be better to be quite discrete. But I think it's important for you to locate and interact with people who are living their lives to the fullest — devoted to their brightest dreams, committed to their highest values, and sworn to express their highest integrity.

HOMEWORK: Imagine that thanks to scientific breakthroughs, healthy habits and good luck, you're still alive in 2090. What's your life like? Testify at freewillastrology.com.

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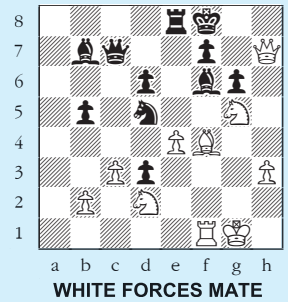

WHITE FORCES MATE

Hint: Cripple the defenders.

For puzzle answers, see page 46

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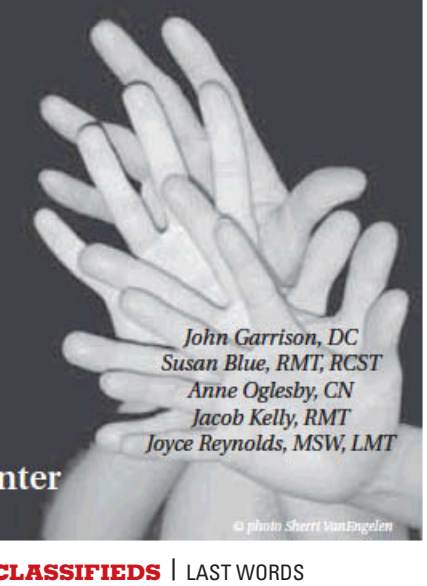

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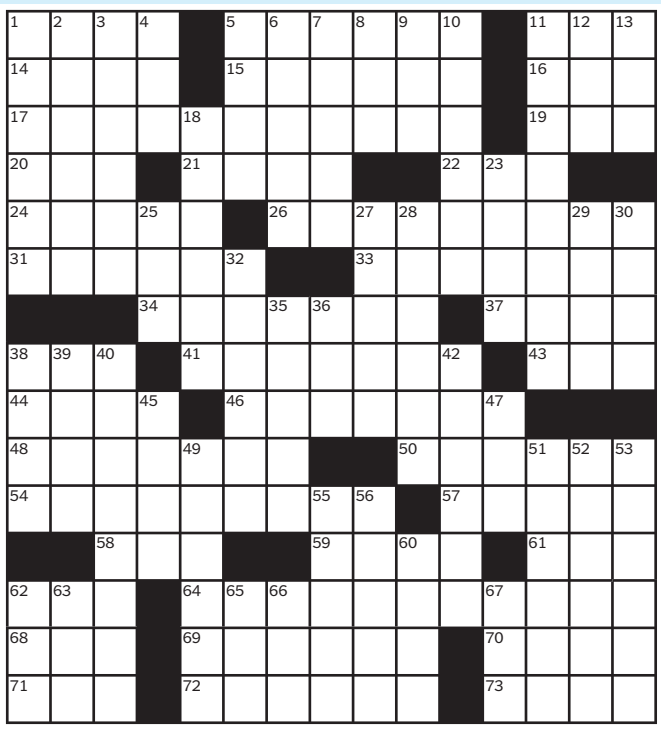

The New York Times Crossword

ACROSS
1 Prefix with distant
5 Ticks off
11 Good deal
14 Be in a pet
15 Meriadoc the Magnificent, for one
16 Gardner of Hollywood
17 Star of 11-/40-Down
19 Ski application
20 "___ Lips Are Sealed" (1981 Go-Go's hit)
21 Last of a loaf
22 It helps hold glasses
24 Serta rival
26 Director of 11-/40-Down
31 Take on
33 Armand of "Private Benjamin"
34 Niña, Pinta and Santa Maria
37 Surgery souvenir
38 Pavement caution
41 Gather, with difficulty
43 Last bit
44 LP player
46 "The Hunger Games" participants
48 Adolescents' support group
50 It might be off the wall
54 Setting of 11-/40-Down
57 Woody Allen title character
58 Louisville's Muhammad ___ Center
59 Sicilian city
61 Place to play the ponies, for short
62 "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away" speaker
64 Award for 11-/40-Down
68 "32 Flavors" singer DiFranco
69 Alter, in a way
70 Kind of fee
71 ___ culpa
72 Explodes
73 Sample

DOWN
1 Mexican partner
2 Tech support may have long ones
3 Extremists
4 Presidential nickname
5 It has a silent tongue
6 Carried
7 African virus
8 Blood-typing system
9 Bucks, on a scoreboard
10 Mounts
11 With 40-Down, film that opened on 12/16/1962
12 Lab eggs
13 Overburden
18 Near and dear, say
23 Pitiful interjection
25 Candy heart word
27 Garage employee
28 Dispensed
29 ___ all-time high
30 Square figure
32 Spurn
35 Hot spot
36 Sea eagle
38 Creator of Eliza Doolittle
39 "___ & Stitch" (Disney film)
40 See 11-Down
42 Antidepressant brand
45 "___ be O.K."
47 Drag into court
49 Like some mushrooms
51 It has buttons on the left
52 Petrol measures
53 Ninth-century Anglo-Saxon king
55 Apply another layer of asphalt to
56 Suggestions
60 Small complaints
62 Flashy two-point basket
63 Derivative with respect to "x" in f(x) = x + 10
65 "Lo, How a Rose ___ Blooming" (old hymn)
66 Grimson of the N.H.L.
67 Boy king of antiquity

For puzzle answers, please see pg. 46
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2	4	6	5	3	7	9	1	8
8	7	3	1	2	9	6	4	5
4	6	2	7	1	8	3	5	9
7	3	1	2	9	5	8	6	4
9	8	5	3	4	6	7	2	1
6	1	4	8	7	2	5	9	3
3	2	7	9	5	1	4	8	6
5	9	8	4	6	3	1	7	2

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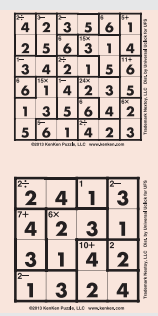

Crossword

E	Q	U	I	■	S	T	E	A	M	S	■	L	O	T
S	U	L	K	■	H	O	B	B	I	T	■	A	V	A
P	E	T	E	R	O	T	O	O	L	E	■	W	A	X
O	U	R	■	H	E	E	L	■	■	E	A	R	■	■
S	E	A	L	Y	■	D	A	V	I	D	L	E	A	N
A	S	S	U	M	E	■	■	A	S	S	A	N	T	E
■	■	■	V	E	S	S	E	L	S	■	S	C	A	R
S	L	O	■	S	C	A	R	E	U	P	■	E	N	D
H	I	F	I	■	H	U	N	T	E	R	S	■	■	■
A	L	A	T	E	E	N	■	■	D	O	U	B	L	E
W	O	R	L	D	W	A	R	I	■	Z	E	L	I	G
■	■	A	L	I	■	■	E	N	N	A	■	O	T	B
J	O	B	■	B	E	S	T	P	I	C	T	U	R	E
A	N	I	■	L	E	T	O	U	T	■	U	S	E	R
M	E	A	■	E	R	U	P	T	S	■	T	E	S	T

CHESS QUIZ

From page 44:
1. Bxd6ch! Black moves (any legal move).
2. Qxf7 checkmate! [Motylev-Baramidze '12]

EndZone

By Ralph Routon

Fame, faceoffs and failure

So much material, so little space. Since we only do this once a week, the best option is dividing our time into three topics: Baseball's Hall of Fame, the National Hockey League and, of course, the Denver Broncos.

Hall of Fame: As a former member of the Baseball Writers Association of America (just one more year and I would have put in my 10 to become a Hall of Fame voter), I have seen that group from the inside. It's brimming with older and retired purists who revel in the good old days, meaning the 1950s and '60s. So it wasn't surprising when no former player received the required 75 percent of votes for induction this year, given the controversy that engulfed **Barry Bonds** and **Roger Clemens** over their alleged use of performance-enhancing drugs.

Longtime Houston sparkplug **Craig Biggio**, the top vote-getter, will make it soon. (Trivia: Just a few days before Biggio was called up in June 1988 and began his major-league career, he played for Tucson against Colorado Springs in the first games ever at Sky Sox Stadium.) But I'm guessing many BBWAA voters wanted to make a statement this year. There'll be a ceremony with a few old-timer inductees, but nobody from the modern era, and that's fine.

If you ask me, **Pete Rose**, now 71, deserves to make the Hall of Fame ahead of Bonds, Clemens or others tainted by the steroids era. Rose was guilty of gambling, but he never was found to have tried to influence an outcome, and almost always wagered on his team to win. He didn't tarnish the game anywhere close to as much as those who took steroids.

SPORTS SHOT

Who's next? After Lance Armstrong's tell-all interview, perhaps Oprah can persuade Barry Bonds to do the same. Or, who knows, maybe O.J. Simpson.

NFL picks San Francisco and New England will advance to the Super Bowl, with the 49ers defense and Patriots offense making the difference.

Next week Plenty of Springs-based skaters will go to the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Omaha, with national coverage set for Jan. 26-27 on NBC.

Bright outlook With Boise State and most likely San Diego State back in the fold, the Mountain West Conference looks to have 12 teams, two divisions and a football championship game in 2013.

National Hockey League: Finally, the owners and players came to their senses and reached a long-term agreement. If the NHL had lost this entire season, the league might never have returned in its current form.

Then again, perhaps the NHL needs to reconsider its entire structure and personality, which haven't been the same since Canadian cities and franchises faded into the background, unable to compete with the resources of American-based teams.

Since the end of Edmonton's dynasty in 1990, only once has a Canadian team won the Stanley Cup — Montreal in 1993 with goaltender **Patrick Roy**, who later helped Colorado win titles in 1996 and 2001. And only five times in the past 20 years has a Canadian franchise reached the Cup Finals.

Someday, the NHL should figure out how to have more of an even split (currently it's 23 U.S. cities, only seven in Canada), with playoffs producing a finalist from each country to play for the Stanley Cup. For now, don't be expecting great hockey, with the season starting this weekend after only a handful of days in camp.

Broncos busted: Of all the scenarios considered in advance, nobody thought Denver's defense would become the culprit in that nightmarish 38-35 overtime loss to Baltimore. Asking veteran cornerback **Champ Bailey** to cover Ravens speedster **Torrey Smith** one-on-one without safety help, especially after being burned early, was a recipe for trouble.

That was a coaching error. But just as unforgivable was second-year safety **Rahim Moore** totally blowing his assignment on the long touchdown pass to **Jacoby Jones** that sent the game to overtime, Any decent NFL safety makes that play, and Moore did take the blame, but don't be surprised if he loses his job anyway.

Denver head coach **John Fox** took a lot of heat for not pushing **Peyton Manning** and the offense to take a shot at moving into field-goal range in the final half-minute of regulation. On a warmer day, or inside a dome, Fox surely would have rolled the dice. But in that kind of weather, it's understandable that Fox figured Denver's odds would be better in overtime. If Manning had thrown an interception in the final seconds of regulation, the naysayers would've crucified Fox for that.

In the end, Denver's defense was far more responsible for this debacle. As a result, the front office will have tough decisions to make in the months ahead.

— routon@csindy.com

RangerRich

By Rich Tosches

No love for the tokers

Today we'll discuss the smoking of weed and how our very hip and progressive El Paso County commissioners believe marijuana is the work of **Satan** and that it destroys a person's short-term memory, and also destroys a person's short-term memory and is the work of Satan.

Along the way we'll get to **Dennis Hisey**, chairman of the commissioners, who says regular pot-smokers are lazy and contribute nothing to society. Bolstering his argument is a candid interview with actual lazy and unproductive registered Colorado Medical Marijuana patient No. MMRB72413, who recently watched a gigantic polar bear in his backyard for 25 minutes before realizing it was a scrap of toilet paper stuck to his reading glasses.

Anyway, our commissioners are on the verge of finalizing a ban on marijuana use on county property. This would include our county parks, where pot smokers like to gather, fire up the bong and listen to the ocean.

The commissioners likely will also ban commercial growing and retail sales of pot in unincorporated county areas because it disturbs the chickens. Pot is known to cause rural people to do bizarre things, such as wear big trousers with straps that fasten over their shoulders, drive around all day on tractors and replace the word "yes" with "eee-yup."

The bans will likely come despite county voters last November narrowly approving Amendment 64, the statewide initiative that allows people 21 and older to possess an ounce or less of marijuana and to grow as many as six pot plants, each no larger than a redwood tree.

'They have never been productive.'

And by "narrowly approving," I mean county voters OK'd the amendment by 10 votes. Rural areas, however, voted against the measure by some 55 percent — with some 85 percent of those anti-pot folks adding that they hope within the next year to get one of them COM-puter gadget things.

Also, and this was surprising to some, voters at the Air Force Academy went heavily for Amendment 64. (Frankly, if someone stood over your bed every day at 6 a.m., woke you up by blowing a bugle in your ear and then cut your hair with a windshield ice scraper, you'd probably want to have a shoebox filled with pot, too.)

Voting heavily against the pot law were folks in the northeast part of the county, where Focus on the Family convinced them that pot-smoking makes you want to do unnatural things like listen to **Elton John** music or express an opinion different from your husband's.

Our local elected officials, of course, are visionary and sophisticated people on the cutting edge when it comes to things like this. For example, prior to the November election, District Attorney **Dan May** was quoted by the *Gazette* as saying this about Amendment 64: "It allows anyone from the world to come here and buy it or to sell it to anybody out in the world of unlimited amounts."

I don't think it can be put any clearer than that.

Just a few days ago I called Commissioner Hisey, who is really a very nice guy, and got this: "I think people who partake of marijuana regularly tend to not be some of the more productive citizens. They are people we are taking care of, the government is going to be taking care of them as they get older because they have never been productive or saved any money. I see high school friends at reunions and of the marijuana smokers, for a fair number of them, life has not been so kind."

Among the unproductive losers who reportedly smoked pot regularly at some point are President **Barack Obama**, Apple co-founder **Steve Jobs**, Microsoft guru **Bill Gates** (not admitted, although he strongly hinted at it during a *Playboy* magazine interview), scientist **Carl Sagan** and even **George Washington**, who grew hemp in his backyard and, many believe, smoked it.

Even **Albert Einstein** is believed to have dabbled. Which would explain that hair.

And even though Medical Marijuana card holder No. MMRB72413 is no Einstein, right now I could sure use a few of those onion bagels with globs of cream cheese that he and his brother sell.

***Rich Tosches (rangerrich@csindy.com) also writes a Sunday column in the* Denver Post.**

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